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Inter-Arab Affairs

Quorum Reached for Extraordinary League Session

NC2708145990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1355 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 27 Aug (WAKH)—Informed Arab sources have stated that the quorum for holding an extraordinary session of the Arab League Council at the foreign ministers' level in Cairo on Thursday [30 August] was reached. The council will discuss the Arab League secretary general's report on implementation of the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit recently held in Cairo.

In a report from Tunis, the QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the quorum for this meeting was reached when 11 Arab countries agreed to hold it. These countries are: Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman, Kuwait, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Djibouti, and Somalia.

The sources said that the other member countries' failure to reply does not mean that they will not attend now that the quorum has been reached and that intensive contacts are under way between the Arab League and the member states to ascertain their participation in the meeting which could be an opportunity for reassessing the repurcussions of the Arab and international stands on the Gulf crisis.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Message to Saddam Affirms Support

LD2708225590 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The commander brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, has sent a message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in which he affirms the solidarity of the PLO with Iraq.

The Iraqi News Agency reported that Brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the Political Department of the PLO, delivered the message.

He made a statement to Iraqi television that the PLO opposes any foreign military presence in the Gulf area and firmly supports Iraq in confronting any external aggression.

Qaddumi Rejects Foreign Presence in Gulf

LD2708233190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Abu Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has stated in a press statement that the PLO's stand—clear and unambigious—is its concern for dealing with the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework and its categorical rejection of foreign interference. This was stressed by the Palestinian stance at the Cairo summit, and it was stated by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, to the good offices committee at the Arab summit conference so that it would reach a solution to the crisis. However, regrettably, there was an insistence on not dealing with the crisis and on leaving the matter to foreign forces.

Brother Abu Lutf went on to say: The Palestinian stand is concern for Arab solidarity through the Arab league. We have previously faced numerous problems and I used to complain personally about how Arabs dealt with matters such as this. Regrettably, we resorted to voting for the first time. Some people wanted [word indistinct] and we insisted that the Arab League assume the task of settling this crisis away from foreign interference.

Brother Abu Lutf added: It seems that the United Stated is not serious about finding a peaceful solution to the crisis. It was evident from the outset that it wanted to deal with matters unilaterally and take the measures it desired. It planned for a resolution of condemnation to be issued before learning about the Arab League's resolution, which categorically rejected foreign interference. It forced the issuance of other UN resolutions, using the Gulf crisis as a pretext for entering and continuing its presence in the Gulf region. Brother Abu Lutf said: I would like to point out that the United States submitted a memorandum to the Baghdad summit conference on 23 June via the Arab League secretary general in which it said that it had a presence in the Gulf region and its friends supported that presence. It was as though it was warning the summit against adopting any resolution that would blatantly harm that presence. The memorandum also pointed out that the flow of gasoline from the Gulf region should be ensured, and that President Mubarak's initiative regarding destructive weapons should be supported. It demanded that a dialogue be held among all those concerned in the region regarding the matter, and here it meant Israel. The memorandum added that that dialogue must be held without waiting for a settlement of the complex issues in the region, by which it meant the Palestine issue. Brother Abu Lutf said: After all this, is there not a conspiracy?

Commentary Considers U.S. Use of 'Arab Cover'

LD2808035790 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Political commentary]

[Text] There is no longer any shadow of a doubt regarding U.S. motives and intentions behind whatever the United Sates is doing in the Arabian Gulf area in the form of an escalation that pushes the entire region, in fact the whole world, to the brink of comprehensive destruction. U.S. forces have arrived in the area raising the slogan of defending the land of Saudi Arabia from the danger of a semidefinite Iraqi attack. America then bagan to change its tone and speak about the probabilities of carrying out military measures of a specific nature against Iraq. At one time it says [forces are here] to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, at another it says to topple the Iraqi regime, and at another it says to save

the Arab oil wells from his [Saddam Husayn's] hands and secure American control over these oil wells forever.

These statements, which vary in tone and strength, entail the correct interpretation of the real U.S. stance. The UN Security Council resolution to impose a blockade on Iraq, despite its harshness, did not meet hostile American expectations, and the United States therefore resorted to the formation of an international and Arab cover for its military forces in the Gulf, which only came to carry out an aggression, a matter which is revealed today by U.S. statements. Because the UN Security Council resolution to impose a blockde on Iraq does not provide a legal cover for the U.S. aggression in its premeditated form, U.S. efforts continued in earnest until the UN Security Council adopted a resolution allowing the use of force to ensure the blockade and secure its effectiveness. Force here means the U.S. fleets and forces deployed under international and Arab cover in the Gulf area. Therefore, the United States is proceeding in its treatment of the situation in the Arabian Gulf according to a well-studied plan based on phases by which the United States realizes international preparation for and preacceptance of a military explosion in the area. This is exactly what is taking place within sight and earshot of all the Arabs. It highlights a number of facts that should not be overlooked at all. These facts are as follows:

First, the United States, which has always depended on Israel because the latter, being America's strong and long arm in the region to which America delegates the task of aborting and dealing with any upcoming Arab force, today finds itself in need of taking its own matters into its own hands. This would not have happened had it not been for the fact that Iraq possesses weapons—with respect to quantity and quality—that have enabled Iraq to reach the point of mutual deterrence with Israel. In other words, Iraq has canceled Israel's capability of being the only force in the Arab arena, whether for Israel's own benefit or for the benefit of its master—the American imperialists.

Second, the recent Cairo Arab summit, knowingly or unknowingly, has participated in the premeditated and well-studied American plan to realize an international and Arab cover for the moment of military explosion.

Third the recent Arab summit has barred the way for a possible Arab solution and the containment of the crisis in the Gulf within the framework of the one Arab house; or, let us say, that it has made such a hope less likely and more difficult to achieve.

Fourth, the United States, after the exposure of its aims and intentions, has cast away all previous pretexts which were camouflaged as aid, assistance, and defense, and has appeared as an ugly enemy to the eyes of all the Arab masses. This means the moment of military explosion in the area will harm all American interests in all Arab arenas in which the Arab masses witness, reject, and challenge the state of U.S. aggression.

Fifth, this escalation by the U.S. side, and by which the United States has revealed its true old and new intentions to realize military control over the oil resources in the Arabian region, dictates that the Arab nation—at the leaders' level—should reconsider its position and arrive at a minimum level of Arab solidarity. This may be the only hope for aborting the imperialist American plan and preventing a war that will shake the entire Arab region and will dictate a political map that will change its features from the Ocean to the Gulf, if not destroy the entire world.

VOP Report Lauds Iraqi, Palestinian Resistance

LD2808090290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Unidentified reporter's dispatch from Persian Gulf region]

[Text] Amid the flow of U.S. and allied forces to the Arab territories in the Gulf, and in the throes of the United States' threats against fraternal and steadfast Iraq, and in the middle of the siege in which some Arabs have been taking part along with the Americans, the U.S. media continues its uproar and its drumbeating against Iraq and against the PLO. While some Arabs have been participating in the military campaign, certain Arab writers in the hireling press have also been taking part in this campaign as if they were the spokesmen of some sides in the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East.

Several aspects of this campaign can be seen in the outcry about the welfare of the Europeans in Kuwait City and in Iraq. U.S., Western, British, and Zionist sources went so far as to say that the detention of European citizens—who were described by the leader of the orchestra, George Bush, as hostages—these sources went so far as to say that the detention of these people would be a strong reason for launching a U.S.-Western attack on Iraq to undermine its great steadfastness.

We would like to ask these people and raise our voice high: Why did the states of the world which have been conducting this campaign against the PLO and Iraq, not ask about the fate of an entire nation which Israel has been holding hostage on the captive national soil for scores of years—the Palestinian people who are held by Israel with U.S. weapons which have been bought with the money of some Arab oilmen. This Palestinian people has the right to ask today: Where are the human rights and [word indistinct] human rights and the [word indistinct] who are singing the praises of human rights? Where is all this regarding the detention of this Palestinian people as a hostage of Israel and the United States in the Middle East?

Yes, a nation that possesses nothing except the sacred stone and its will, a nation that possesses nothing except its [people to] help build some of the emirates and the kingdoms of the Arabian desert so they can move from underdevelopment to a state of knowledge and culture; they have been helping them to catch up with the civilized nations.

Our option is our stones with which we confront the Zionist occupation. Our option also is our knowledge,

our action, and our political movement. Our stones are thrown at the Zionist occupation every day and every hour. The effect of our stones and our uprising is growing today and tomorrow and every day into an earthquake that will shake many positions in an Arab reality. The West has labeled [us] as: An Arab is a vendor of kerosene, gasoline, and diesel. He should deposit his money in American banks. American banks are owned by Zionists, and these, with the profits from Arab money, buy arms to maintain Israel's superiority. This definition has been given by the Americans to the state of Arab reality because they would like it to stay as it is.

The Palestinian people under the leadership of its legitimate and sole representative, the PLO, will not allow anyone to tamper with their destiny. They have so many options. The first of these are the revolution and the uprising. No one in this world should think that he cannot be reached or can escape the punishment of the Palestinian people who have risen against the detested occupation. They will [words indistinct] despite this media uproar and despite the tightening of the blockade against fraternal Iraq.

The Palestinian leadership has been moving in the direction of making the peace efforts a success in order to prevent the spread of the great fire in the Gulf. Will the Americans, the Zionists, and the Arabs who are taking part in the U.S. invasion and in the media campaign against the PLO realize this truth before it is too late? [Words indistinct].

PFLP Calls for Pan-Arab Boycott of U.S.

JN2708185390 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Aug

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has denounced the U.S. military presence in the Arabian Gulf and the Arab Peninsula and considers it a military invasion of the Arab land—an invasion which defies and directly threatens our Arab nation's aspirations to and hopes for liberation and democracy. This came in a recent statement distributed by the PFLP in Palestine.

The statement says that this U.S. conspiracy should be met with further adherence to and escalation of the intifadah because it is the nucleus of all political moves. It also calls for putting an end to Palestinian moves that will weaken the Palestinian struggle and its goals, referring to the charter of the so-called declaration of principles which was signed by a number of Palestinian figures, other party figures, and Zionist forces, including the Labor Party.

The PFLP's statement also stresses the need to hold a new Palestine National Council session to review and reformulate Palestinian political tactics in light of the new changes, and to make a comprehensive assessment of the course of the intifadah in order to draw up a clear-cut working plan to continue, escalate, and promote the intifadah. It also calls for boycotting all U.S. establishments and goods, and turning this boycott into a comprehensive pan-Arab position adopted by all the Arab masses.

PLO Gulf Initiative 'No More Than Ideas'

JN2708101290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Aug 90 p 3

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni: "PLO Unsure of Role in Gulf Crisis"]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has not discussed with the Iraqi leaders a reported peace initiative involving an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, but the organisation is keen to link any solution of the Gulf crisis to an overall settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to senior PLO officials.

They said that senior PLO officials who visited Baghdad over the past several days had not brought up a specific Palestinian peace initiative although ideas concerning the organisation's role and means to avert direct military intervention were discussed with the Iraqi leadership.

Reports from Tunis said Saturday [25 August] that the PLO was launching a three-stage peace initiative involving the freezing of all military activities, including the dispatching and positioning of troops in the Gulf, a simultaneous Iraqi and American withdrawal from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia respectively, and a settlement for the Kuwait crisis by a special Arab League committee.

Palestinian officials told the Jordan Times Sunday [26 August] that the reported peace initiative was basically no more than ideas which originally aimed at finding an Arab solution for the crisis and gradually linking the settlement to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Palestinian sources explained the ideas were derived partly from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's two initiatives which expressed readiness to withdraw from Kuwait and linking this withdrawal to ending the Israeli occupation and the American military presence in the Gulf.

"But as soon as one gets to Iraq you realise that Baghdad's major concern is the American challenge," said a senior PLO official contacted in Tunis by the JORDAN TIMES by telephone.

Palestinian sources said that even though Iraqi officials indicate that the annexation of Kuwait is irreversible, President Saddam Husayn is ready to show flexibility on any issue if it was relevant to prevent an American control of the region.

"But it is not a decision that the PLO or any party can decide. Iraq is the party directly threatened," a PLO official said. "It is not for the PLO to pressure Baghdad. After all Iraq has to maintain the freedom and margin to manoeuvre," he argued.

The insistence by some PLO officials in Tunis that the reported ideas reflect what could be called a peace initiative, however, clearly reveals a basic internal debate about the role of the PLO at this stage.

The main question seems to be whether the PLO should or can play the role of a mediator or not. The arguments for a mediating role stem, according to information available, from a combination of maintaining bridges with Washington pressures applied by a number of Palestinian expatriates in the Gulf, and fear that the PLO would lose its political role in inter-Arab politics.

But on the other hand, some Palestinian officials argue that the PLO simply cannot play the role of a mediator because it is unacceptable to the U.S. "Our bridges with Washington are already burned. We should not fool ourselves," one senior PLO official said.

According to this view Palestinian and the Arab national interests would be undermined if Iraq were to suffer a defeat, and the PLO therefore should take an active part in creating a popular steadfastness front to counter the American presence.

Officials who promote this line argue that the PLO should derive its strength and direction from the overwhelming Palestinian popular support, particularly in the occupied territories and Jordan, for Iraq against the U.S.' involvement in the Gulf.

"His Majesty King Husayn and, to a lesser extent, Algeria are the only parties who can mediate," said one Palestinian official.

The initial results of the recent PLO-Iraq talks in Baghdad indicate that the organization did not and could not push for a mediating role. But there was no information available yet on PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's talks with Saddam. 'Arafat stopped in Amman Saturday on his way to Baghdad, but it was not immediately known whether he met with the King or other senior Jordanian officials.

Al-Sa'ih Urges U.S. To Heed Iraqi Initiative

JN2608152090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Aug 90 First Edition p 3

["Exclusive"]

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council, has cautioned the United States and its leaders against ignoring Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative; otherwise, the Arab region and even the entire world would be involved in a devastating war whose consequences can only be known by God. He hoped that U.S. politicians would act wisely and accept this initiative out of concern for world peace. He also called on foreign troops to withdraw from Arab land and leave the Arabs the task of resolving their problem by themselves.

Replying to a question, his eminence expressed his conviction that the invaders will not resort to actual war but "the Crusaders might resort to economic harassment in contravention of international law."

He said this conviction was based on the fact that many U.S. officials realize the danger of such a military option and thus advise U.S. President Bush not to resort to it, when Bush has declared that Gulf oil is not worth one drop of a U.S. soldier's blood.

DFLP Political Bureau Criticizes 'Abd-Rabbuh

JN2508100090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Aug 90 Second Edition pp 1, 13

[Text] An official spokesman for the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has denied that any of its offices in Syria were overtaken by force. SAWT AL-SHA'B last night received a statement by the DFLP Central Information Department replying to an earlier statement by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in which he said one of the Damascus offices was occupied by military force, as directed by DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah. The following is the text of the DFLP Political Bureau's statement:

While the DFLP Political Bureau was holding a working session to discuss the serious situation in the region following the U.S. military intervention in the [Arabian] peninsula and the Gulf and the repercussions this situation has had on the brave intifadah in our occupied territories, it was surprised at the dissemination of a press statement attributed to Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the Front's assistant secretary general, who intentionally declined to attend the meeting. In this statement, he spoke about an imaginary military occupation of positions and offices belonging to the Front, and a fabricated clamor over division within the DFLP.

The Political Bureau is surprised by talk of the occupation of the Front military camp at the direction of the secretary general. It stresses that the Front's only military camp in Syria, along with all its fighters, was and still is committed to the factional legitimacy under the leadership of Comrade Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Central Committee, and that the situation in the camp is normal and no problems whatsoever took place there. During the past few days, however, some secessionist, defeatist elements attempted to attack some of the Front's offices in Damascus. These were the Central Information Office, the military administration, and another office in one of the refugee camps in Damascus. The comrades working in these offices thwarted all these attempts and the assailants were confronted by massive popular resentment in the refugee camps, where people suffered bitterly from such actions and denounced their perpetrators.

The Front's Political Bureau regrets Comrade Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's attempt to give a political cover to these abortive, childish actions and to falsify facts, fabricate stories, and harp the tune of divisions within the DFLP.

The Political Bureau stresses that concern over the DFLP's unity requires abandoning such secessionist activities, returning to the front's legitimate organizations, and seeking their help to resolve all differences or internal disputes. Stirring propaganda campaigns will not benefit anyone or help resolve problems through democratic dialogue within the legitimate bodies.

The Political Bureau calls on Comrade Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh to resume his leading role in the Front's departments and resolve all differences within the framework of these departments on the basis of true democracy removed from fabricating imaginary problems and stirring up propaganda campaigns.

OPEC Affairs

Countries Set To Endorse Production Increase

AU2808074090 Paris AFP in English 0418 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Report by Jan Kristiansen]

[Text] Vienna, Aug 28 (AFP)—Ten OPEC countries were set to endorse Tuesday [28 August] an "interim" decision to raise their oil production to help offset a supply shortfall caused by the Gulf crisis, senior officials said after late-night private talks among key OPEC ministers.

Speaking after lengthy separate talks among ministers of Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nigeria and Algeria, they said the proposed accord would be finalized at a full session Tuesday morning of 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The officials said the ministers still hoped to persuade Iran to accept the proposed accord, hammered out in intensive "informal" consultations which began here Sunday [26 August], in the absence of ministers from Iraq and Libya.

Iranian oil minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said late Monday he was "not opposed to an increase" in OPEC production at some stage, "but not now," and ministerial aides later suggested that Iran might reject the deal.

Officials acknowledged that the accord would broadly meet a call by Saudi Arabia, backed by other major Gulf producers and Venezuela, for official OPEC support to boost production to make up for oil taken out of the market by a United Nations embargo on crude oil from Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

Oil industry sources say that while the combined production quotas of Iraq and Kuwait total 4.6 million barrels a day (mbd), the supply gap on the world market would be roughly 3.5 mbd, taking into account the two countries' domestic needs.

Iraq, which has served notice that any attempt by its OPEC partners to offset the shortfall would be tantamount to "aggression," triggered the current crisis when it invaded Kuwait on August 2.

While the Iraqis appear to have boycotted the talks, the Libyan minister was expected here Monday night, but failed to turn up.

Nigeria's oil minister Jubril Aminu told reporters that a meeting of all the OPEC ministers present in Vienna was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Tuesday (0900 GMT), and said "we might have something more definite to tell you" by midday. He was speaking in the early morning hours as he left the hotel suite of Algerian Energy Minister Sadek Boussena, the current OPEC president, accompanied by Indonesia's Ginanjar Kartasasmita.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir earlier told reporters that OPEC ministers "always find a solution."

Senior officials said the proposed accord included an appeal to Western consumer countries and Japan to help cover the gap by drawing from their stocks. This point was raised by Iran and other countries in 48 hours of intensive consultations here since Sunday. Outlining the proposed agreement, the senior officials said the deal, while "legally binding," would apply until market conditions returned to normal.

OPEC countries that raised their output temporarily would then revert to their national quotas set under the pricing and production pact concluded by their ministers in Geneva on July 27, which remained valid. The July agreement set an overall OPEC production ceiling of 22.5 mbd and a target price of 21 dollars a barrel.

Fears of armed conflict following the massive United States military build-up to shield Saudi Arabia from an Iraqi attack sent crude oil prices soaring above 30 dollars a barrel last week. But on Monday, futures prices plunged by three dollars to just over 27.50 dollars at one point on the New York Mercantile Exchange upon news of an easing of tension over Western embassies in occupied Kuwait and reports from OPEC talks here, dealers said.

Egypt

Al-Asad Arrives in Alexandria To Meet Mubarak

NC2808115490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Alexandria, 28 Aug (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Alexandria this afternoon at the head of a high-level delegation for a brief visit to Egypt. He will hold consultations with President Husni Mubarak about the deteriorating situation in the Gulf that resulted from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the serious consequences that this entailed.

President Mubarak led the delegation receiving the Syrian president at Alexandria airport. The two leaders then left in an official motorcade to Ra's al-Tin Palace through Alexandria's main thouroughfares. Egyptian masses lined the sides of the streets to greet the two leaders.

[At 1146 GMT on 28 August, Cairo MENA in Arabic adds in another Alexandria-datelined item, "The two Arab leaders, Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held a private meeting at Ra's al-Tin Palace following President al-Asad's arrival this afternoon."]

Al-Qadhdhafi Presses Mubarak on Arab Solution

JN2708210190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today telephoned Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and discussed with him the Gulf developments in the light of King Husayn's visit to Libya. Al-Qadhdhafi told the Egyptian president that the Jordanian monarch confirmed to him that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn wishes to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully within an Arab framework without foreign interference. The Libyan leader hoped that Egypt would exert more pressure to stop what he termed foreign interference in the region's affairs and to press for an end to the war option. Finally, al-Qadhdhafi expressed his desire to help transport the Egyptians returning from Kuwait and Iraq in Libyan aircraft.

For his part, President Mubarak hoped that the military option would be avoided in resolving the Gulf crisis. He indicated that he is exerting intensive efforts for the predominance of the political solution. He did, however, criticize Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for persistently refusing to withdraw from Kuwait, indicating that the current efforts will not yield positive results if the situation continues as it is. He said there is international and regional insistence on the need to implement the Security Council resolutions which compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Offers To Help Evacuate Citizens

NC2708122990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, telephoned President Husni Mubarak this afternoon and asked him to allow Libyan planes to help transport Egyptian nationals coming from Iraq and Kuwait.

President Receives U.S. Senate Delegation

NC2808090390 Cairo MENA in English 0758 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Alexandria, Aug. 27 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received here this morning at Ra's al-Tin Palace a delegation of the U.S. Senate led by minority leader Senator Robert Dole. Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, attended the meeting together with Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Egypt.

The delegation includes Senators Sam Nunn, John Warner, Jake Garn, Alfonse D'Amato, Don Nickles, Steve Symms, and Connie Mack.

Further on Mubarak Meeting With Turkey's Bozer

NC2708122390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Alexandria, 27 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer this morning. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Turkey's ambassador to Egypt, and a number of senior officials accompanying the Turkish minister.

In a statement after the meeting, the information minister said the Turkish foreign minister had conveyed a message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal to President Mubarak. The message affirms that Turkey shares Egypt's views in condemning, denouncing, and rejecting the Iraqi armed aggression against the independent State of Kuwait and its attempts to annex it by force, an action that is unacceptable to the international, Islamic, and Arab community.

The information minister said that the Turkish president stressed in his message that his country's position is guided by its commitment to international law. The Turkish foreign minister will convey to President Ozal a message from President Mubarak on Egypt's position since the start of the invasion, which is in line with Egypt's Arab responsiblities; its commitment to Arab principles and values; and its respect for the independence of states, the will of the people, and international charters and norms, Al-Sharif added. He said that Egypt's principled position had been prompt because it is the largest Arab state, and it reflected the feelings of the Egyptian people and the Arab people in general.

The information minister said that President Mubarak had emphasized that resulting from its concern for the fraternal Iraqi people, Egypt continues to extend efforts and endeavors to find a political solution to the crisis that would spare the region the risks of a military confrontation. He added that this solution could be within an international, Arab, or combined Arab-international framework. He added that Iraq must make a practical reassessment of its position in light of its real capabilities, the threats to the Iraqi people, and the serious and negative consequences for the region; respond to the unanimous Arab and international rejection of the invasion of Kuwait; withdraw from Kuwait; restore legitimacy; and respect the will of the Kuwaiti people.

Concluding his statement, the information minister said that the Turkish foreign minister cited President Ozal on the importance of expanding bilateral relations, particularly in the economic and trade fields.

Minister Affirms Compliance With UN Resolutions

NC2708173790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] New York, 27 Aug (MENA)—Egypt has confirmed to the United Nations that it is completely abiding by the clauses of Security Council Resolution 661 on economic measures against Iraq and occupied Kuwait. The resolution was passed as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

This was in a message from Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar informing him of Egypt's position on this resolution and its commitment to it.

In his message, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt is studying and assessing the possible negative effects on Egypt's economy as a result of the measures contained in Security Council Resolution 661 which calls for imposing economic sanctions against Iraq for invading Kuwait.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister noted in this respect that hundreds of thousands of Egyptian citizens who worked in Iraq and Kuwait have been forced to leave their work and residences to go to neighboring countries, leaving behind their possessions and without settlement of what is owed to them.

Concluding his message Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed Egypt's appreciation for the UN secretary general's efforts in these difficult circumstances to tackle the current crisis in the Gulf. He hoped that these efforts would establish justice and supremacy of legitimacy.

Following is the text of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's message to the UN secretary general:

I have received with thanks your message of 8 August 1990 asking for information on the steps taken by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in implementation of Security Council Resolution 661 of 6 August 1990 which calls for taking economic measures against Iraq and Kuwait.

I am honored to inform Your Excellency of the following:

1. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has abided completely by the clauses of Security Council Resolution 661 for 1990 regarding the economic measures against Iraq and Kuwait (under occupation). All Egyptian companies and establishments have also completely abided by the resolution, from the time it was passed, and stopped all commercial transactions and related services such as banking operations, shipping, transport, and unloading.

2. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt called for the holding of an extraordinary Arab summit in Cairo immediately after the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. The summit was in fact held, and issued Resolution 159 which stressed the commitment to Security Council Resolution 660 of 2 August 1990, Resolution 661 of 6 August 1990, and Resolution 663 of 9 August 1990, because they express international legitimacy.

3. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt is presently studying and assessing the possible negative effects on the Egyptian economy as a result of the measures contained in Security Council Resolution 661 of 1990, while noting there are hundreds of thousands of Egyptians who worked in Iraq and Kuwait, many of whom have been forced to leave their places of work and residence for neighboring countries, leaving behind their possessions and without settlement regarding what is owed to them.

Finally, I would like to express to Your Excellency our deep appreciation for the efforts you are making in these difficult circumstances, hoping that they will end with the establishment of justice and the supremacy of international legitimacy.

Soviet Special Envoy Sytenko Arrives in Cairo

NC2808071990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2346 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—Soviet Envoy Mikhail Sytenko arrived in Cairo from Jordan tonight. Sytenko is currently on a tour of several Arab countries to explain Soviet views concerning the situation in the Gulf.

In an arrival statement, Sytenko said that he recently visited Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, where he held talks with officials in these countries and exchanged views with them concerning the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait.

The Soviet envoy said that it is better if Arab countries find an Arab solution. He expressed the view that it is

hard to forecast what is going to happen in the region. He added that the Arabs ought to work more closely and that maybe then they will find a solution to the crisis.

Sytenko said that his country will exert efforts to find a peaceful solution, because war will mean disaster.

Sytenko noted that Soviet policy toward the Iraqi-Kuwait conflict has not changed and that the Soviet Union seeks a peaceful solution to that problem.

It is worth noting that the Soviet envoy visited Cairo last week as part of his current tour. He met then with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and exchanged views with him on the Gulf crisis. Sytenko will leave Cairo on 28 August for Tunisia, the last leg of his current tour.

'Abd-al-Majid Confers With Austrian Counterpart

NC2308132090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, who arrived in Alexandria this morning. The Austrian minister will hold talks on the developments in the Gulf region and the ongoing efforts to contain the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict. He will also discuss the relations between Egypt and Austria and the means to bolster them in the various domains.

Australian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

NC2608053690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2158 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Aug (MENA)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans arrived in Cairo this evening for a two-day visit during which he will meet with senior Egyptian officials to discuss a number of issues of bilateral interest. The Australian minister was welcomed at the airport by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Yusuf Shararah.

Received by Mubarak

NC2608135490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak received Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans this morning. The Australian ambassador in Cairo and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, the information minister stated that the Australian foreign minister's visit to Egypt was very useful and gave him the opportunity to learn about President Mubarak's views of how to handle the serious situation resulting from the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait.

President Mubarak pointed out facts about Egypt's efforts since the outbreak of the crisis and its attempts to avert possible repercussions, find a solution within the framework of the Arab League, bring about the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, restore legitimacy there, and respect the will of the Kuwaiti people.

The president also emphasized that he is always readu to present alternative solutions in order to maintain peace in the region and protect Iraq and the entire region from the dangers of a military confrontation. The president also expressed the hope that Iraqi leaders will fully appreciate the dangers inherent in upholding and defending principles which are rejected by the Western community as well as the Islamic and international communities.

The Australian foreign minister explained his country's vision on how to manage the crisis. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2608151490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans left Cairo this afternoon, following a one-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Australian minister's visit was part of a tour which will take him to Switzerland and Italy.

Algerian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC2508180690 Cairo MENA in English 1718 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, August 25 (MENA)—An Algerian parliamentary delegation, headed by Dr. Jamal 'Abbas, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, arrived here on a few days' visit to Egypt .

Upon his arrival, Dr. 'Abbas said that the current visit aims at discussing with the Egyptian officials the parliamentary relations between the two countries as well as the most important Arab issues.

They would also tackle means of resolving the volatile Gulf crisis within an Arab framework, Dr. Abbas added .

Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives for Visit

NC2608053590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2112 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Aug (MENA)—A Soviet delegation comprising a large number of Soviet economic experts arrived in Cairo this evening for a 10-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of the al-Azhar University. The delegation includes Soviet Finance Minister Pavlov, chairman of the State Committee on Labor and Social Problems Shcherbakov, the mayor of Moscow, and the president of the Soviet Central Bank.

A source at al-Azhar University stated that several symposiums will be held daily by the Soviet and al-Azhar University officials dealing with the policy of perestroyka and Islamic views on property ownership, labor, wages, trade, and companies.

Ghali Concerned About South Africa Violence

NC2208110190 Cairo MENA in English 1018 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, Aug. 22-(MENA)—Egypt expressed today its deep concern over the escalation of violence in South Africa.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, made statements about this, calling upon all quarters to contain their differences and observe security and order to prevent any future confrontations.

Mubarak Special Envoy Leaves on African Tour

NC2708051390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—Ambassador Sami Haybah, assistant foreign minister and envoy of President Mubarak, left Cairo tonight for Kenya, Djibouti, and Mauritius. He will convey messages from President Mubarak on Egypt's stand on the current crisis in the Gulf to the presidents of these countries.

Butrus Ghali Cited on Relations with Sudan

PM2308091690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 90 p 4

[Unattributed interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali in Cairo; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is your opinion of African opposition to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, especially since the African position on the invasion is unclear?

[Ghali] Most African states condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in clear official statements. And the African states which are members of the Islamic Conference Organization supported the statement issued by the recent Islamic foreign ministers conference in Cairo which condemned the invasion. But there is a fact which we should always keep in mind, namely, that the African states regard the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as merely an inter-Arab conflict posing no direct threat to African interests. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is Egypt's present position toward Sudan's problems? Is there a coolness in relations? What is the significance of Ambassador Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haq's appointment as Egypt's ambassador to Sudan?

[Ghali] Undoubtedly a careful look at the geographical factors and changes in the march of history confirms the strong ties between Egypt and Sudan. This is because they represent an extension of each other's national security and regional integration. Therefore contacts between us are continuing, proceeding from our eagerness to safeguard the special and eternal relations between the two countries.

As for how Egypt believes it can help Sudan overcome its present crisis, it is by continuing to urge both the Sudanese Government and Garang to sit down at the negotiating table to discuss all the outstanding problems between them with a view to arriving at a balanced formula that will achieve national reconciliation and stop the country's resources from becoming exhausted in a futile conflict. In this regard I would like to point out that Egypt is not monopolizing the mediation role between northern and southern Sudan. In fact we welcome any initiative made by friendly states to achieve stability in Sudan.

As for Ambassador Dr. Jad-al-Haq's appointment as Egypt's ambassador to Sudan, he is known in diplomatic circles to be a notable Egyptian Foreign Ministry expert in African affairs, since he has occupied the post of Egypt's ambassador in both Cameroon and Zimbabwe. He is currently director of the African Department. Thus his appointment as Egypt's ambassador confirms the African dimension which Sudan represents to us. [passage omitted]

Minister Comments on Evacuations Through Jordan

NC2708144490 Cairo MENA in English 1215 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—Minister of Transport, Communication, and Maritime Transport Sulayman Mutawalli asserted that the accumulation of the Egyptian returnees from al-'Aqabah has been overcome completely. He added during a meeting today with the returnees follow-up operation room comprising representatives of 11 ministeries that Egyptian ferries returned home yesterday with half capacity and it has been decided to cancel a number of flights because there were no Egyptians in al-'Aqabah. The minister added that the operation room overcame all problems that faced it, such as opening a fund for local and foreign currency in Nuwaybi'.

Sulayman Mutawalli said that Sharm al-Shaykh harbour was operated for the first time to receive passengers, adding that the armed forces transported Egyptians on board everyday flights between al-'Aqabah and Cairo. EgyptAir, the EC, and the Saudi airlines (Saudia) ran many flights betwen Cairo and al-'Aqabah, thus helping solve this problem, he added.

Envoy on Citizens at Iraqi-Jordanian Border

NC2708195390 Cairo MENA in English 1833 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 27 Aug (MENA)—The number of Egyptian returnees who arrived at al-Ruwayshid checkpoint

on the Jordanian-Iraqi borders today reached 5,000 citizens up to this afternoon. They are expected to arrive in Amman and al-'Aqabah by land transportation means and then to be returned back to Egypt by air and sea, according to Ihab Muqbil, Egyptian ambassador to Jordan.

He said there is an Egyptian aeroplane each hour round the clock to take the passengers back home.

The number of Egyptians reaching Jordanian teritory until now has reached a total of 122,000 citizens, the director of borders and foreigners department said.

Trade Federation Leader Cables Iraqi Counterpart

NC2608140790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the Egyptian Trade Unions Federation, sent a cable to his Iraqi counterpart Fadil Gharib demanding his intervention in guaranteeing the safety of the Egyptian workers and their families; ensuring that their salaries, savings, and property are returned to them; and enabling those who wish to return to Egypt to do so.

Al-'Amawi demanded that facilities and guarantees be granted to Egyptian workers in Kuwait who are spending their annual leave outside Kuwait, so that they can receive their salaries, savings, and personal effects.

Al-'Amawi asserted that the Iraqi authorities' aggressive and provocative practices in Kuwait have placed those innocent workers and their families in danger and threatened their lives, as well as their pay, savings, and personal effects.

Al-'Amawi emphasized that the Iraqi trade unions federation should guarantee the safety and rights of the Egyptian workers, ensure that they are not pressured or harmed, and enable them to leave, in compliance with the agreements reached between the two federations after several meetings in Cairo and Baghdad.

Trade Union Group To Attend Meeting on Crisis

NC2708163790 Cairo MENA in English 1538 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, August 27—(MENA)—A delegation for the Egyptian Trade Union Federation [ETUF] left here today for Tunis to attend the emergency meeting of the central council of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] due to start in Tunis later today.

The three-day meeting is to discuss labour conditions, notably the Egyptian labour, in the light of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the possibilities of the interference of ICATU to maintain the remittances rights, and ensure the safety of the Arab workers in the Gulf region.

The delegation groups Khayri Hashim, ETUF secretary general, Mustafa Ibrahim, secretary of foreign relations and Ahmad al-Hirik, secretary of information.

The delegation is headed by Anwar al-'Ashmawi, ETUF deputy chairman, who will leave for Tunis tomorrow.

Official on 'High' Flow of Funds; Employment

NC2308105790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Dr. Muhiy-al-Din al-Gharib, head of the General Investment Authority, has disclosed that the flow of foreign and Arab funds into the Egyptian banking system has been considerably high over the past 10 days. He noted that there has also been an increase in the funds brought into the country to finance new investment. Dr. al-Gharib attributed the trend to Egypt's security and stability as well as to international respect for its civilized stance on the Gulf crisis.

Dr. al-Gharib said that the manpower returning from Iraq and Kuwait will inject the Egyptian economy with new vitality. The returning labor, he noted, will be fully employed in the industrial, housing, and agricultural sector. Dr. al-Gharib said that decisions are currently being made to initiate small industries in the governorates of al-Qalyubiyah, al-'Arish, and Matruh. The new firms are expected to employ a large section of the returning work force. Dr. al-Gharib made these remarks at a meeting of the National Democratic Party's economic committee that lasted until late last night.

Dr. al-Gharib said that international support of Egypt's civilized stance on the Gulf crisis will facilitate reaching an agreement between Egypt and the IMF and encourage the IMF to assist the Egyptian economy.

Dr. al-Gharib said that the investment projects in Egypt that are financed by Iraqi and Kuwaiti capital are operating normally and have not been negatively affected by the Gulf crisis. He noted that most of these projects are involved in material production and making profits.

Dr. al-Gharib said that the government will issue a number of decisions during the next few days with the aim of mobilizing domestic resources, resolving labor problems, and increasing production to meet the expected rise in foreign demand on Egyptian products.

Paper Views Iraq's Detention of Foreign Nationals

NC2308101290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 23 Aug 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial entitled "A State of War," AL-AHRAM writes: Iraq's detention of foreign nationals and its treatment of them as hostages is yet another step

in the Iraqi escalation of the situation. The Iraqi leadership itself does not seem to know where that escalation will end.

It is regrettable that the issue is no longer a political game, for in every game there are two codes: one that you cannot violate and one that you cannot rewrite. Iraq has ignored both.

As for the code that one cannot violate, Iraq has forced all foreign sides to confront it on sound legal and international bases. Countries sometimes embark on one adventure or the other, but they calculate how far they are allowed to go and where they should stop before they bring havoc and ruin upon themselves.

The international sanctions imposed on Iraq were not an act of aggression, but a move to end that country's occupation of Kuwait and restore the legitimate government there. The sanctions were based on firm international legal ground. Saddam Husayn, however, considered the sanctions an act of aggression against Iraq. He acted as if the international community were acting on a whim and Iraq were the victim.

Saddam responded by detaining foreign nationals and moving them into military barracks at the sites likely to be attacked, using them as a human shield. That move contravenes all international laws and norms, and even countries in a state of war refrain from taking such a measure. Saddam is acting as if he were in a state of war against the world, without any country actually declaring war. The international community, acting through the UN Security Council, has not yet sanctioned any joint military operation to enforce the embargo, in accordance with the UN Charter.

As for the code that one cannot rewrite, it involves the humane principles governing military action. These principles grant a special status in international law to civilians not taking part in the hostilities. Iraq broke that code when its forces began harrassing the Kuwaiti people and the Arab and foreign communities living in Iraq and Kuwait.

Paper Warns of Imminent War, Redrawn Borders

NC2608065490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 26 Aug 90

[From the press review]

[Text] An article which appears in AL-AHRAM under the headline "A Redrawn Middle East" says: All signs point to an imminent, terrible, cruel, and destructive war following the decision by leading world capitals to pursue the military option. These countries are determined not to appease Saddam because he is following in Hitler's footsteps and because the errors of the past, such as the Vietnam experience and the Iran hostage crisis when leadership and decision making faltered as a result of conflict between the military and the politicians, must not be repeated.

The current trend is toward completing a military buildup commensurate with the need to deter Iraq totally while keeping losses on the other side to the minimum. Preparations are also being made for other forms of warfare such as terrorist gang warfare [harb al-'isabat al-irhabiyah] and protracted battles. All this will be carried out, in one form or another, under an international political umbrella obtained either through bilateral agreements concluded at the request of the concerned countries—something which has already taken place—or through the UN Security Council. This is being done by moving from the stage of implementing an economic embargo to the stage of enforcing the embargo by naval blockade and force of arms.

The object here is also to defend oil wells and reserves and prevent Saddam, or others, from controlling them in view of the fact that oil is now and will remain the lifeblood of industry. This object will be pursued even if it becomes necessary to restructure the region and redraw its borders in accordance with maps already in existence. One such map provides for fragmenting Iraq into several statelets and obliterating it as an integral unit.

In light of this, every Arab can understand the dimensions of the imminent catastrophe and destruction stalking Iraq and the Arab homelands and nation. He can then appreciate the efforts of sincere Arabs and their incessant and desperate efforts to ward off the terrible imminent dangers. He can also understand President Mubarak's appeal to Saddam and appreciate the extraordinary effort and true sincerity that prompted this appeal to head off the serious omens of great evil to the Arab land.

Editorial Says Blockade Will Topple Iraq Regime

JN2708105090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Aug 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Road to the Abyss!"]

[Text] As the economic noose tightens around Iraq, Saddam Husayn dreams up more and more "initiatives." But they seem to be feverish, given the corner he has backed himself, his country, and his people into.

By casting himself in the role of victim, Saddam Husayn will stop at nothing; he is using the foreign hostages as bargaining chips, demanding the withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces in exchange for their freedom. Yet he chooses to forget two things: First, that hostile action against him was prompted by his aggression against Kuwait, and that his terrible treatment of innocent non-Iraqis is something that will not be forgiven.

Second, since it is always the case that government actions in democracies are a kind of barometer of the popular mood and will, the backlash against Saddam will receive grass-roots support, and so be all the more violent.In his floundering, Saddam seems to want to consolidate a stance based more on emotion than reason. He thinks, for instance, that the hostages will insulate him from war when in fact the need for anyone to launch war against him is obviated by two factors: For one thing, economic pressure seems to be working for now, and when the goods run out and real suffering begins, chances are his regime will be toppled one way or another—a popular uprising by starving masses, a military coup, or even assassination. For another, military action does not look to be foolproof; no one wants Saddam Husayn to be seen dying a "martyr's" death, or, in a moment of desperation, loosing his chemical arsenal on the besieging forces. After all, he used chemical weapons in the war with Iran and against the Halabjah Kurds in northern Iraq.

Whatever strategy he may have, it seems to be built on the assumption that Iraq will be the target of swift and lightning strikes; hence, the housing of the hostages in industrial and military installations. This humanitarian side of the issue has not been lost on the UN Security Council, which has dispatched envoys to negotiate with him. Saddam would, however, be wrong to think that he he has thus strengthened his position. He cannot conceive that his enemies are in no rush to strike, but are taking their time strangulating him economically. The battle, though, is inevitable. Only, preparations will first have to be set in place, and then the time and venue decided. And the goal will not be to topple the regime, since by then the blockade itself will have done the job.

Paper Urges Iraqis To Avert 'Impending Disaster'

NC2708055890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 27 Aug 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, AL-AKHBAR warns of the catastrophe that is about to befall all peoples in the region—and not just the Iraqi people—at any moment, as a result of the annihilation of an entire Arab people. The paper holds those who have taken advantage of Saddam Husayn's desire for hegemony and domination and who have persuaded him that he can achieve his illusions of leading the Arab world mainly responsible for the tragedy. The paper adds that the Arabs expected the Iraqi Army to support them in times of hardship.

The paper asks, as any Arab who sincerely believes in his Arabism, his faith, and his principles would ask: Is there not one rational and sincere man among the rulers of Iraq who will put the interests of his homeland and of the Arab nation above anything else and fearlessly try to avert the impending disaster?

Libya

King Husayn, Al-Qadhdhafi Urge Arab Solution

JN2708155290 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn left Tripoli this morning. President al-Qadhdhafi led those who saw his majesty off. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, a responsible source in the delegation accompanying His Majesty King Husayn has said that the Jordanian and Libyan viewpoints have converged on the need to crystallize an Arab solution based on a number of principles that would ensure, if implemented, a balanced solution that would avert for the region and the Arab nation a real disaster should the current Gulf crisis develop further.

The source added that during the talks, His Majesty King Husayn reviewed the developments of the crisis since its beginning, and expressed his views on the various incidents and events that led to its aggravation and its current situation. His majesty also explained his own perspective and the steps he has taken to contain this crisis in spite of the difficult circumstances which have surrounded the crisis since its first moments. His majesty explained the efforts made by Jordan to defuse the crisis and stop the fast-paced escalation that has characterized the Gulf crisis.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With Mubarak by Phone

LD2708195290 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt had a telephone conversation today.

Morocco

Saudi Foreign Minister Issues Statement, Departs

LD2708135590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, this morning left Morocco at the end of a brief visit during which he was received yesterday evening by His Majesty King Hassan II. In a press statement prior to his departure from Rabat-Sale Airport, the Saudi official lauded the efforts being made by his majesty the king to contain the Gulf crisis. He also pointed out that he conveyed to the sovereign a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Here follows the statement of the head of Saudi diplomacy:

[Begin Sa'ud al-Faysal recording] I had the honor yesterday evening of delivering a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques to his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II. I found his majesty continuously preoccupied, as we have

always been accustomed, with our Arab and Islamic issues, especially within the framework of this tribulation we are all facing. The attitude that his majesty expressed is a necessity in these decisive days in the fate of the Arab nation: to concentrate on the bases and principles of the Arab nation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Terms Jordan, Iraq Trip 'Successful'

EA2708201190 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 27 August (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has described the outcome of his visits to Jordan and Iraq as successful. His talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Iraqi officials stressed the need to solve the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework. He added in statements he made here today after returning [word indistinct] al-Kharrubi, member of the historic leadership of the 1 September Revolution who accompanied him on his visits, that his talks with President Saddam touched on settling the crisis peacefully. He said that the Iraqi leadership was understanding regarding Sudan and Libya's efforts to settle the crisis peacefully. Al-Bashir announced that efforts would continue for a peaceful solution within an amicable Arab framework, pointing out that [word indistinct] both Sudan and Libya would play a role.

Al-Bashir and al-Kharrubi left Baghdad this morning and were seen off by the (?Iraqi) president and Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi RCC and first deputy premier. They arrived in Khartoum this afternoon, and [words indistinct] al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy RCC chairman; the chief justice; and several ministers received them at the airport.

Al-Kharrubi arrived in Khartoum on 25 August, and he and al-Bashir began their visit to Jordan and Iraq yesterday.

Tunisia

King Husayn Arrives, Met by President Ben Ali

LD2708162490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] King Husayn, the monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Tunis at 1330 on a working visit during which he will hold talks with President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali about developments in the Gulf crisis. President Zine el abidine Ben Ali welcomed his guest at Tunis-Carthage International Airport. King Husayn is accompanied by a delegation which includes, in particular, Mr. Mudar Badran, chairman of the Council of Ministers and Defense Minister.

Briefs Palestinian Officials

JN2708172590 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1711 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] At his residence in Tunis this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received Messrs. Hakam Bal'awi, Palestine's Tunis ambassador; and Bassam Abu-Sharif, special adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat. His Majesty King Husayn asked them to communicate to the Palestinian leader the purpose of his present tour, namely to work out a common Arab approach to a resolution of the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework.

Holds Talks With Ben Ali

LD2708230890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Excerpt] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali this evening held one-on-one talks with King Husayn of Jordan, who arrived this afternoon in Tunisia on a working visit. The talks were held at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage.

The meeting, which was devoted to considering developments in the Gulf crisis, was followed by an extended session attended by, on the Tunisian side, Prime Minister Hamed Karoui; Mohamed Jeri, minister, director of the Presidential Office; and Habib Boulares, minister, private adviser to the president of the Republic. On the Jordanian side, the session was attended by Mudar Badran, prime minister and defense minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the court; and 'Adnan Abu 'Awbah, political adviser to King Husayn. [passage omitted]

Reviews Relations, Crisis; Departs

LD2808130790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan continues his tour of the Arab Maghreb countries. President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali at noon today at the Essaada palace in al-Marsa held talks with King Husyan of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who arrived in Tunis yesterday.

During the meeting a review of the relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of bolstering them took place and the discussion continued on the situation in the Gulf area.

President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali yesterday evening held private talks with King Husayn. The meeting, which was devoted to discussing the developments in the Gulf crisis, was followed by an expanded session.

King Husayn left Tunis this afternoon after a working visit during which he had talks with President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali on the developments in the Gulf crisis.

The head of state was (?at the head of those who) said farewell to him. [Words indistinct].

Paper Says Egypt Participating in 'Conspiracy'

LD2608225490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The Gulf crisis is between an ebb and a flow. The Western states, led by the United States, are exerting pressure to impose and implement the economic ban on Iraq through the use of military force, while Baghdad is deciding to stand its ground against all decisions which these states may take. In light of all these events, it appears that the conspiracy against the Gulf area is extensive and that Arab sides are participating in this or that form in this conspiracy. The first announcement concerning a conspiracy came from President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

What the Tunisian ECH CHARK [as heard] revealed today is very serious. The paper yesterday published a document which it described as being the minutes of a meeting between Jordanian King Husayn and a number of senior Jordanian journalists, and that the minutes were not for publication. It revealed Egypt's involvement in the conspiracy against Iraq. King Husayn confirmed that while he was in the United States a message was received from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in which he said to George Bush: Hit Iraq quickly before Egyptian streets blow up. The Jordanian king pointed out that he was taken aback by this Egyptian request which warned Washington against Arab streets' turning against U.S. interests. [passage omitted]

Boulares Appointed New Foreign Minister

LD2808122190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has released the following communique:

His excellency the president of the Republic, Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, has appointed Habib Boulares as foreign minister in place of Ismail Khelil who will be called for another mission.

Bahrain

Jordanian Envoy Arrives With Message for Amir

NC2608145890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 26 Aug (WAKH)—Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Manama this afternoon with a message for His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, from Jordanian King Husayn Ibn-Talal.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives in Manama

NC2608155790 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 26 Aug (WAKH)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived here this morning on a visit to Bahrain to discuss with top government officials bilateral relations and current developments in the region.

He was received by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the Pakistani ambassador to Bahrain Mohammad Khan Junejo [name and title as received], and the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry Nabil Ibrahim Qambar.

Meets With Prime Minister

NC2608160490 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 26 Aug (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received in Manama today Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Shaykh Khalifah expressed Bahrain's appreciation of the positive stances adopted by Pakistan's government and people towards the crisis in the Gulf which demonstrated the strong ties between Pakistan and the people of the region.

The Pakistani minister told WAKH that he conveyed to H.H. the Amir Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and the Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah a message of solidarity and support from the Pakistani leadership. He expressed Pakistan's full support to the stances of the GCC states.

The Pakistani minister added that he conveyed to H.H. the Amir and the prime minister his government's firm stance in condemning the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

He also expressed his government's firm stand for the restoration of the legal government of Kuwait. He also said that his country announced clearly its support to the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

He added that his country had sent troops to Saudi Arabia, with which Pakistan had close and friendly relations.

Khan stressed that his current tour in the GCC states is aimed at conveying a certain message that Pakistan stands fully behind the Arab Gulf states at this critical situation.

He also said that his talks with H.H. the Amir and prime minister were extremely useful.

Departs 27 Aug

NC2708071190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 27 Aug (WAKH)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his accompanying delegation left Manama this morning following a visit to Bahrain during which he held talks on promoting bilateral relations as well as the current developments in the region. He was seen off by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah and Mohammad Khan Junejo [name as received], Pakistani ambassador to Bahrain.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Tells Nation To Resist Aggression

LD2708215990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1956 GMT 27 Aug 90

["Statement to the Kuwaiti nation" by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti prime minister and heir apparent, place, date not given; from the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My brothers and sisters, O upright sons of Kuwait, O sons of our great people, best greetings to you, and I would like to convey to you the greetings of the leader of our march, his highness the amir.

Brothers, you have faced the aggression of the tyrant of Baghdad with exemplary bravery and confronted his forces and his covetous clique valiantly. You did not weaken or repose. You were the best loyal sons of our beloved Kuwait, and you were courageous heroes like your fathers and forefathers who defended Kuwait and sacrificed their lives for it. [passage omitted]

My brothers and sisters, your valiant resistance against the Iraqi regime's invasion enjoys the respect and support of your Arab and Muslim brothers everywhere. Your heroic struggle against the ruler of Iraq's criminal aggression enjoys the sympathy and support of all the peoples of the world. The Arab nation discussed Saddam's treacherous aggression against Kuwait at the emergency summit conference. The Islamic nation discussed the Iraqi regime's criminal invasion of Kuwait at the Islamic countries foreign ministers' conference. The international community debated the unjust Iraqi occupation of Kuwait at the Security Council. The Arab nation pronounced its word, the Islamic nation declared its view, and the international community stated its position. They have all rejected and denounced the ruler

of Iraq's unjust invasion of Kuwait. They have all stressed their insistence that all his forces must be withdrawn from all Kuwaiti territories; they have all stressed their support for and commitment to the legitimate authority of the State of Kuwait represented by His Highness the amir of the country, may God protect him. Voices of truth and justice were raised throughout the world condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and asking the aggressor to withdraw.

O sons of our beloved country, we are not alone in confronting Saddam's treacherous invasion of our dear country. We are not alone in resisting the occupation of the dear homeland by his forces. God is with us against the unjust and the aggressor. He is the best master and the best supporter. Our brother Arabs and Muslims are standing by us in support of justice and against injustice and aggression. Our friends among the peoples of the world are standing by us and in solidarity with us against the enemy of humanity and peace.

The world has intensified its war against the treacherous aggressor. It has tightened the siege around the tyrant regime. The aggressor has felt the ground begin to shake under his feet. He has felt the noose tightening around his neck. He is becoming confused in his words and actions. He appears daily before the world, making a new decision contradicting what went before, and a false initiative contradicting the previous one.

The Arab nation wanted the Iraqi Army to be strong toward the shield for Arabism. But the ruler of Baghdad has made the Iraqi Army wage a war on the Arabs; he has turned it into an arrow aimed at Arabism. He has rejected the appeals of the leaders and heads of state of the Arab and Islamic countries and others. The aggressor persists in his errors and tyranny. He defies all mankind. He ignores the sincere efforts which seek to save the Arab countries, particularly the Iraqi people who are powerless, from the terrors of war and the destruction it will cause, a war that is about to be unleashed by the megalomania, and the dreams of an expansionist aggressor at the expense of other states and nations.

Is it not enough what the tyrant of Baghdad has committed against the Iraqi people who have endured enough of oppression, persecution, destitution, and the destruction and calamities he caused Iraq in a grinding war which took the lives of hundreds of thousands of young Iraqi men, and which burdened the Iraqi people with enormous sacrifices, which today have all been wasted.

Today he insists on dragging the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Army into another losing war against the entire world, from which the Iraqi people will not reap anything except more terror, destruction, death, the annihiliation of its sons, and the destruction of its homes.

Brothers and sisters, sons of our great people. The aggressor has deliberately embarked on carrying out acts which seek to weaken your resolve; he did not even hesitate to announce the annexation of Kuwait to Iraq. In so doing he exposed the truth of his intentions and expansionist ambitions. You must not be misled by these flimsy practises. The aggressor is trying to spread his weakness, his incapability; he wants to pass them on to the rest of the world, and to hide his imminent collapse. Kuwait remains, God willing. Kuwait will survive through the resolve of its people, the strength of its men, and the courage of its sons. You will remain its people. You will survive in Kuwait with the help of God. The criminal aggressor is the one who will leave it, humiliated and defeated. Soon the unjust assailants will know what vicissitudes their affairs will take.

O sons of our dear homeland, over the past two weeks I, like some brother ministers, have toured a number of sisterly and friendly countries in various parts of the world to explain our just cause, to raise the voice of our homeland—Kuwait—and to bolster our people's struggle against occupation and aggression. Everywhere we found support for the Kuwaiti people and government. We found support among leaders and presidents at the official level and we felt support and solidarity at the popular level. [passage omitted]

O sons of our dear country, sons of our beloved Kuwait, do not worry about your families and relatives who were forced to leave our dear homeland. They are well, and they are receiving the assistance and care they need. Our country, Kuwait, is like a mother who does not forget her sons even in the bleakest hours of her ordeal. The honorable brothers here [Saudi Arabia] and in other sisterly Arab countries have not been sparing in their hospitality and care. I feel that it is my duty to address my great thanks and appreciation to the dear brothers in this good country and the other brotherly countries who have shared our concerns and problems in solidarity and support. On your behalf, I would like to offer our most sincere thanks and gratitude, praying to God to reward them well. [passage omitted]

My brothers and sisters, O loyal sons of Kuwait, Kuwait has a claim on us all. The time has come to fulfill that claim. Let us all cooperate in fulfilling it by resisting the aggression and making sacrifices for the dear homeland. Kuwait is our homeland and the resting place of our fathers and forefathers, the future of our children and the coming generations; it deserves that we should sacrifice what is dear and precious for its sake. We should offer our lives for it, and we should turn it into a hell for the invaders and a graveyard for the aggressors. [passage omitted]

West German Diplomats, Citizens Leave Embassy

AU2808080390 Vienna Domestic Service in German 0500 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Ulrich Tildner report]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yesterday evening, 2 GDR diplomats and 12 West Germans who had sought refuge in the GDR mission in Kuwait left the GDR Embassy because of a lack of food. The 14 persons are currently on their way to Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Views Resistance Operations

NC2708203290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said today that well over 2,500 Kuwaiti military personnel, who were on leave during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, have arrived in Saudi Arabia. He added that they will return to Kuwait immediately to join the Kuwaiti resistance ranks.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister pointed out that the Kuwaiti government-in-exile is in constant contact with the Kuwaiti resistance. He added that the Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait have stepped up their acts of violence due to the increasing resistance operations.

Dubayy Reports on Kuwait Resistance Statement

LD2708171190 Dubayy Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] A Kuwaiti resistance group said today it would strike at Baghdad in retaliation for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on 2 August. A statement read out on Free Kuwait Radio on behalf of the 25th February movement said Kuwaitis were determined to expel the Iraqi invaders and restore Kuwait's emir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. February 25th is Kuwait's national day.

The statement added the resistance had already identified several targets in Baghdad. Kuwaitis have reported that resistance groups inside the country have been constantly harrassing Iraqi forces, killing soldiers, and destroying equipment.

Resistance Fighters Attack Iraqi Forces, Embassy

NC2708164590 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1605 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] According to newspaper reprots, the Kuwaiti national resistance attacked the Iraqi invasion forces in Kuwait City on Saturday. They also attacked the Iraqi Embassy building, using missiles and hand grenades.

The sources said a large number of Iraqis were killed or wounded. A pall of smoke hung over the embassy until the next day. The media reported that another group of Kuwaiti resistance fighters may recently have attacked a large Iraqi military position. A number of officers and soldiers were killed and tanks and other military equipment were destroyed.

Resistance Operations To Extend to Baghdad

NC2708123690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwait Radio today broadcast a statement issued by the 25 February Group of the Kuwaiti national resistance movement, stressing its determination to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation and its commitment to the leadership of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The statement added that the group will expand its operations to include Baghdad in coordination with an Iraqi group opposing the Iraqi Goverment. The anniversary of Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah's assumption of power is 25 February.

Kuwaiti Premier Receives U.S. Ambassador

LD2608192190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] The heir apparent and prime minister of the State of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, today—Sunday—received the appointed [mu'ayyan] U.S. Ambassador to the State of Kuwait Edward Gnehm. During the meeting issues of mutual concern were discussed and views exchanged on the latest developments in the region.

Amir Receives Tanzanian Support Message

LD2708131690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 27 Aug (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, today received a message from President 'Ali Hasan Mwiniy of Tanzania.

Kuwait Radio said that the message concerns Tanzania's firm and absolute support for Kuwait's legitimate rights to liberate its land and for the restoration of legitimacy. His Highness the amir of Kuwait has also received the secretary-general of the Islamic Conference Orgnization Hamid al-Ghabid. [passage omitted]

Oman

Deputy Premier Receives French Defense Official

NC2608194790 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Excerpt] His Highness Fahr Bin-Taymur Al Saz'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, received His Excellency Gerard Raynoun, French secretary of state for defense affairs [name and title as heard] and the accompanying delegation, at his office at Bayt al-Falij camp this morning. His Excellency Sayf Bin-Hamad al-Battashshi, secretary general of the Defense Ministry, attended the meeting. Their discussions dealt with matters of mutual concern.

The meeting was also attended by his excellency the French ambassador to the Sultanate and the military attache at the French Embassy in Muscat, as well as Air Commodore Malallah Bin-Rustum al-Sadiqi, his highness' personal assistant, his highness' military assistant,

and director of security and public relations at the office of his highness the deputy prime minister for security and defense affiars.

His excellency the French secretary of state for defense affairs and his delegation arrived in Oman early today on an official visit of several days to the Sultanate. [passage omitted]

State Minister Praises Iranian Stance on Gulf

LD2608221490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Mr. Mohammad 'Arab, our country's ambassador in Muscat, met with Mr. Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs of Oman, on Sunday [26 August], and submitted to him a written message from our country's foreign minister.

At this meeting Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs praised the principled and logical stance adopted by Iran regarding the Kuwait crisis. At this meeting our country's ambassador in Oman, while reviewing regional developments, called for serious efforts to be made by all countries of the Gulf littoral to resolve the current crisis and secure the withdrawal of foreign forces from this sensitive region in the world.

Citizens From Kuwait Return to Muscat via Jordan

NC2708172990 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1605 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Omani families living in Kuwait have left Jordan's Alia Airport for Muscat. A Royal Air Force of Oman plane carried 64 families out on the first trip home. Another group of Omani families will be flown out later today.

The families expressed their thanks and gratitude to His Majestiy Sultan Qabus and his government for the attention given to the welfare of Omani nationals at home and abroad. The families also thanked the staff of the Omani Embassy in Jordan for the services and facilities offered to them upon their arrival from Kuwait via Iraq. They said that during the journey they did not face any problems of harrassment at either the Iraqi or the Jordanian border checkpoints.

The Royal Air Force of Oman has dedicated special transport planes in Jordan for airlifting Omani families arriving from Iraq and Kuwait.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

NC2708094890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Salalah, 27 Aug (WAKH)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim arrived in Muscat at noon today on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. The OMANI NEWS AGENCY said the Jordanian minister is carrying a written message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman from Jordan's King Husayn.

Delivers Message From President

NC2708183390 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1605 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus gave an audience to His Excellency Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the Pakistani foreign minister, at al-Hisn Palace today. His excellency the Pakistani minister conveyed a verbal message to his majesty from his excellency the Pakistani president.

The audience was attended by His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq-Bin-Taymur, under secretary for political affairs at the foreign ministry. It was also attended by his excellency the Pakistani ambassador to the Sultanate.

Received by Sultan Qabus

NC2708150790 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman received Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in his office this morning.

Al-Qasim conveyed to His Majesty an oral message from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal of Jordan. The meeting was attended by His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq Bin-Taymur, foreign ministry under secretary for political affairs, and his excellency the Jordanian ambassador in the Sultanate of Oman.

Departs Sultanate

NC2808091390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0822 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Muscat, 28 Aug (WAKH)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Muscat this morning after an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. Yesterday, he delivered an oral message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman from Pakistani President Gulam Ishaq Khan.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

NC2708131490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1255 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Salalah, 27 Aug (WAKH)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived in Muscat today on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The OMANI NEWS AGENCY reported that the Pakistani minister is carrying a verbal message from the Pakistani president to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, but its contents were not disclosed.

Qatar

Military Facilities Open to 'Friendly States'

NC2708120990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Doha, 27 Aug (WAKH)—It was announced here today that the State of Qatar will grant military facilities to certain friendly states.

During a joint meeting today of the Qatari cabinet and Consultative Council held at the amir's request, Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani reiterated Qatar's firm stand in condemning the aggression to which the State of Kuwait was subjected, stressing the need for the complete withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwaiti territory, respecting Kuwaiti sovereignty and independence, and allowing the legitimate Kuwaiti Government to exercise its authority.

The amir pointed out that subsequent [word indistinct] made it necessary for certain fraternal and friendly states to deploy military forces in Gulf waters and in Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries to help deter any possible aggression.

In an interview published by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the amir referred to the international consensus as represented by the resolutions of both regional and international organizations. [passage omitted]

His highness reiterated that it is Qatar's duty, as a member of the GCC and the Arab League, as a sponsor of the Arab joint defense pact, and as a member of the United Nations, to participate in the Arab and international effort provided for by these resolutions.

Hence, the State of Qatar has decided to grant military facilities to certain friendly countries at their request, and in an attempt to realize the goals established by the resolutions.

The members of the cabinet and the Consultative Council have voiced full support for these measures and have expressed their appreciation of the circumstances that required the measures be taken in order to face the extraordinary and exceptional circumstances to which the fraternal State of Kuwait and the entire Gulf region are being subjected.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Departs After Visit

NC2508072990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Doha, 25 Aug (WAKH)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Doha this morning following a three-day visit to Qatar as part of a tour of a number of countries in the region.

The Pakistani minister held talks with Qatari officials on developments in the region.

Saudi Arabia

Arab Forces 'Dig In' at Saudi-Kuwaiti Border

NC2708173290 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1605 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Arab Forces from Egypt, Syria, and Morocco stationed in Saudi Arabia have dug in near the Saudi-Kuwaiti border. The forces were deployed in a move to implement the resolutions adopted at the Cairo emergency Arab summit. They are operating under Saudi command. The Arab forces are acting in a defensive capacity to counter any attack on Saudi Arabian territory.

King Donates $60 Million for Egyptian Evacuees

LD2408231590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] An authoritative source made a statement to SPA today in which he said:

Following what the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, has learned on the plight of thousands of our Egyptian brothers who are returning from the State of Kuwait and Iraq, caused by transportation difficulties; proceeding from his, may God protect him, desire to alleviate their plight and ease the problems of those who are returning home, the beloved king issued the following noble instructions today: First, immediately to allocate six aircraft to assist in the Egyptian airlift of Egyptian citizens from Jordan to Egypt.

Second, to grant $60 million for the Egyptian Government to contribute toward aid to Egyptians returning home, for managing their daily livese given the hardship they have suffered following the Iraqi invasion of the fraternal State of Kuwait. This is in addition to the $15 million donated by Saudi charities for their brothers who have been returning home, and for the same noble purpose.

The source concluded his statement by saying that implementation of the noble instructions began today.

Foreign Minister Receives Kuwaiti Counterpart

LD2508220390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 2110 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz at his office in Jeddah today received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the deputy premier and foreign minister of the fraternal state of Kuwait.

The latest developments in the Gulf arena and the current international situation vis-a-vis the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait were discussed during the meeting.

Minister Receives Syrian, Moroccan Officials

LD2708233990 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general received at his palace in Jeddah tonight the ambassador of the Republic of Syria to the Kingdom and the commander of the Syrian troops [deployed in Saudi Arabia], General Ali Habib. At the same time his highness received the ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to this kingdom, Dr. Ahmed Ramzi, and the commander of the Moroccan troops, Colonel Ahmed (?Sanyassi). His Highness had earlier received the ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Sayyid Qasim al-Masri, and the commander of the Egyptian troops, General Muhammad (?Ali Bilal). Several topics of mutual interest and the current situation in the region were reviewed during this meeting.

King Fahd Receives Nigerian President's Message

LD2608224490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 26 Aug (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has received a message from his excellency the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, General Ibrahim Babangida.

The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by his excellency the Nigerian minister of external affairs, Dr. Rilwanu Lukman, when he was received by the king at the royal court in Al-Salam Palace this evening. [passage omitted]

His excellency the Nigerian external affairs minister arrived in Jeddah on the evening of the day before yesterday. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Turkish Minister of State Arrives for Talks

NC2408115390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1022 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Aug (WAKH)—Turkish Minister of State Gunes Taner arrived in Abu Dhabi this afternoon.

He is to hold talks with senior officials in the United Arab Emirates on bilateral relations and developments in the Gulf region.

Delivers Ozal Message; Departs

NC2508071990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0640 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 25 Aug (WAKH)—Gunes Taner, Turkish minister of state, left Abu Dhabi today following a visit to the United Arab Emirates during which he conveyed a message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal to President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

NC2508084390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0758 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Aug (WAKH)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived in Abu Dhabi from Doha this morning on a visit to the United Arab Emirates.

He was received by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Pakistani Ambassador 'Ali Junejo.

The Pakistani foreign minister is scheduled to hold talks with senior state officials on developments in the Gulf region.

Delivers Message From Jatoi

NC2608072990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0512 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Aug (MENA)—Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a message from Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, head of the Pakistani interim government. The message deals with regional developments and bilateral cooperation.

The message was delivered by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan during a meeting with Shaykh Zayid on Saturday [25 August].

Yemeni Minister Arrives With Message From Salih

NC2708200190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Aug (WAKH)—Yemeni Industry Minister Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar arrived in Abu Dhabi tonight on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Dr. al-'Attar said he will convey a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The Yemeni minister was received by Ahmad al-Ta'ir, minister of state for financial and industrial affairs and acting minister of education, and a number of officials.

Yemen

Source Rejects BBC Report on Airlift With Iraq

JN2508204990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2004 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', a responsible source has denounced the false reports fabricated by some Western media organs that aim to spread poisons to escalate tension in the region through the unfounded rumors and allegations they repeat and disseminate, something the colonialist media organs have been doing for a long time against the Arab nation by distorting their policies. This includes the BBC report that an airlift exists between our country and fraternal Iraq to transport foodstuffs, that Iraqi troops are present in our country, and other falsehoods.

The source said these reports are unfounded. He stressed that these allegations seek to block our country's intensive efforts and contacts to resolve the crisis in the region by peaceful means within the Arab context and away from foreign intervention, which wants to create pretexts to justify a continued presence and harm Arab national security.

'Thousands' Demonstrate Against Buildup in Gulf

AB2708180890 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] SANAA, Aug 27 (AFP) —Thousands of Yemenis staged a demonstration in the city of Taez Monday [27 August] to protest the buildup of foreign forces in the Gulf and United Nations sanctions against Iraq, witnesses reported. Demonstrators carried portraits of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as well as of the former Egyptian president and fervent Arab nationalist Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir.

An ally of Baghdad, Yemen abstained from an Arab summit resolution August 10 that condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and approved the deployment of Arab troops in Saudi Arabia.

In a related development, Yemeni President Ali 'Abdallah Salih received a message Monday concerning the Gulf crisis from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, official sources said.

Salih Receives Soviet Envoy, Gorbachev Message

JN2708173490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received in his office today Veniamin Popov, ambassador of the USSR in Sanaa, who conveyed to the brother president a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with bilateral ties and current developments in the region.

Ministers Go to UAE, Iran To Discuss Crisis

JN2708180190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, industry minister, left for Abu Dhabi this evening on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. In a statement to the YEMEN NEWS AGENCY, SABA', the minister said he is carrying a message from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, dealing with the ties between the two fraternal countries and developments in the Arab Gulf.

Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, also left for Tehran this evening on a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. In a statement to SABA', Dr. al-Dali said he was carrying a message from brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on the ties between the two fraternal countries and developments in the Gulf and the [Arabian] Peninsula, especially after the arrival of foreign troops in the region.

In addition, brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister, will leave tomorrow morning for Moscow to hold talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Soviet officials on the crisis in the Gulf region and bilateral ties. These visits are part of the continuous efforts our country has made to contain the Gulf crisis and resolve it peacefully, so as to bolster world security and stability and avert military danger to the region.

Foreign Journalists Threatened With Exit Ban

LD2708180990 Hamburg DPA in German 1723 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Mainz (DPA)—The Iraqi Government has threatened the around 50 foreign journalists in the country with an exit ban. This was reported this evening by Second German Television (ZDF) on the basis of a telephone call made by ZDF reporter Klaus-Dieter Schulz-Vobach. A corresponding threat was reportedly made by the authorities in Baghdad. Schulz-Vobach, who has been in Baghdad since last Friday, is currently the only German reporter in Iraq, ZDF says.

Swedish Diplomats To Help Evacuate Embassy

LD2808105490 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 0930 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The Swedish Embassy in Baghdad will now receive three more diplomats. Early this morning (Jan Janonius), (Jan Carlson) and (Viveca Lofberg) left the capital of Jordan, Amman, to travel by car to Baghdad where they will help Ambassador Henrik Amneus with the possible evacuation of Swedes. Yesterday the 57 Swedes, who waited for a week in the northern Iraqi town of Mosul, came to Baghdad. Together with the about 80 Swedes who already are in Baghdad, they will try to leave Iraq.

The Foreign Ministry in Stockholm, however, cannot say how and when the Swedes can leave Iraq. Foreign Ministry press spokesman Bo Heineback told us that at the moment there is nothing to point toward a solution.

'Aziz Says EC Hostages Won't Be Released Soon

AU2708135290 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 27 Aug 90 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Georg Possanner in Baghdad headlined "'Aziz: At Present No Chance for EC Citizens To Leave Region"; no date given]

[Text] [Possanner] What does or did Austria have to do in return for the release of its citizens who were detained in your country?

['Aziz] Nothing, we have not demanded anything.

[Possanner] Why has Iraq complied with President Waldheim's request?

['Aziz] President Waldheim has a reputation in Iraq and in the Arab world. Austria, as a neutral country, has neither harmed Iraq nor the Arab world. Although we have different opinions on some questions, we have never displayed a hostile attitude. If politicians and heads of state of other countries want to come with good intentions, we will accordingly treat them as guests.

[Possanner] Does this mean that they can get permission for their compatriots to leave the country if they follow Waldheim's example and visit your president?

['Aziz] We try to solve all problems. Of course, the friendlier the countries are, the easier it will be to cooperate with them.

[Possanner] Will this also apply if these countries observe the UN sanctions?

['Aziz] Even if a country adheres to this unjust and unfair resolution, there are still graduations in its interpretation. Some states go to unnecessary extremes. As we have heard from your president, who has rich experiences as a former UN secretary general, and as shown by precedents, such sanctions never included foodstuffs, medicine, and other humanitarian articles. Australia, with which we concluded a contract for corn supplies, stopped them. This contradicts the spirit and the letter of the resolution and historic examples. It was interpreted as a hostile act that contributes to the starving of the Iraqi population and not to a positive political solution.

Every country is free to show itself as humanitarian and not hostile, and nevertheless to respect the UN resolution. They can do this by getting to the bottom of the matter and by being fair and not hostile. We will take this as a guideline for our behavior in the case of the foreign citizens who are currently our guests.

[Possanner] You called Australia's behavior hostile. How do you assess the EC resolutions? Are they also hostile?

['Aziz] Yes, although there are differences.

[Possanner] That is to say, you currently do not see any chances for EC citizens in Iraq and Kuwait to leave the country like the Austrians?

['Aziz] No.

AFP on Reaction to Proposed 30 Aug Meeting

NC2808131290 Paris AFP in English 1146 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 28 (AFP)—Iraq on Tuesday [27 August] charged that an Arab League ministerial meeting on the Gulf crisis scheduled for Thursday in Cairo was illegal and divisive.

Diplomatic sources at Arab League headquarters in Tunis meanwhile reported that Iraq had formally requested that a decision to return the League secretariat to Cairo be reconsidered.

In Baghdad, Sa'ud Qasim Hammadi, head of the Arab affairs department at the foreign ministry, insisted that the proposed ministerial session was "illegal, because it will apply a decision (taken at an Arab summit in Cairo August 10) that was itself legally invalid, as it did not have unanimous backing as required by the Arab League charter."

Twelve of the Arab League's 21 members supported a resolution condemning Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and approving the deployment of Arab forces in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Hammadi said the ministerial meeting, which is to examine the application of the summit measure, "would serve to divide Arab ranks and try to justify the alignment of 'American Arabs' behind the NATO and U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia."

But he stressed that Iraq was prepared "for a dialogue and consultation on all Arab efforts or any other proposal ... on the condition that it is preceeded by the expulsion of all foreign forces from the region."

"Iraq is ready to consider all sorts of guarantees and does not rule out the use of Arab forces to reassure those who fear the so-called Iraqi threat," he added.

The report that Iraq has now officially objected to the return of the Arab League secretariat to Cairo followed a declaration by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz two weeks ago.

Egypt has been among the harshest Arab critics of the Iraqi invasion and merger with Kuwait and President Husni Mubarak has repeatedly demanded an Iraqi withdrawal.

Egypt's membership in the Arab League was frozen in 1979 following its peace treaty with Israel and League headquarters were moved from the Egyptian capital to Tunis.

But Cairo's membership in the body was restored in May 1989.

Editorial Advises Bush To Withdraw Forces

JN2808093790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that George Bush's policy will only lead to grave losses that the U.S. Administration will not be able to endure now or in the future.

In its editorial today, the paper adds: When it rejected leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative on 12 August a short time after it was broadcast—and even before Bush waited for the official translation of this initiative—the Bush administration proved that its policy is an extension of some of the previous administrations, which took on wars of intervention as a means to decide political issues.

The paper says: The policy of the wars of intervention inflicted grave economic and human losses on the United States and turned it into a real enemy of peoples. The slogan of defending human rights repeatedly raised by the United States has become a practical joke for all peoples who were the victims of the massacres perpetrated by the invading U.S. forces.

The paper refers to the U.S. losses in Vietnam, saying: If the Bush administration does not learn lessons from past experiences, then the fate of the forces of aggression, if they commit this historical mistake, will be gloomy. It adds: U.S. losses in Vietnam, though grave, will not be the same if a confrontation takes place with Iraqi forces. This is because Iraq's military, technological, and scientific capabilities were not there in Vietnam during the U.S. involvement. Moreover, conflict over the oil wells is different from a conflict in jungles and remote seas. This is in addition to the fact that the mighty will of the Iraqi people and their experienced heroic army, and the stand of the masses of the Arab nation and their revolutionary organizations that will not hesitate to destroy the U.S. interests in the Arab homeland and in the world. All these are factors that will turn the forces of aggression into a fuel for the flammable fire that will reach more than one place, if it breaks out.

AL-JUMHURIYAH warns against the fate of any aggressive adventure and says that it will be worse than the adventures of past wars of intervention waged by the United States. The paper calls for the immediate withdrawal of the invading forces from our holy lands. It points out that the continued presence of these forces in Hejaz and Najd expresses slighting of the Arab nation, its prestige and sanctities.

The paper stresses that the U.S. Administration should realize well that the time of the wars of intervention is over, that the will of the peoples, who have faith in their rights and just causes, is able to turn the balance of power upside down, and that regret will be of no use to the U.S. Administration when its prestige is trampled in the burning sands of the Arab desert.

Concluding, the paper says: George Bush himself should search for a way to withdraw his forces from the region and to save face. It would be better for him to endure this embarrassment than to have the U.S. people suffer from the harsh consequences resulting from continuing his forces' presence in the region. These harsh consequences might not be confined to this generation, but may extend to the future generations.

Minister Praises Waldheim, Assails U.S.

AU2808102290 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 28 Aug 90 p 3

[APA report: "Waldheim Suffered From Zionist Attacks"]

[Text] Baghdad—In the opinion of Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, President Kurt Waldheim has "gained prestige" by his visit to Baghdad. "We are very happy," Jasim said on Monday [27 August]. "We highly appreciate him and we also sympathized with him when he suffered from the Zionist attacks. I have heard that he is now regarded as a national hero in his country," Jasim said, "thanks to President Saddam Husayn and God he has been indemnified." With the exception of Austria, there are currently no plans to permit foreign citizens to leave the country, Jasim said. Any plan of this kind depends on the position of the individual country, that is, on a "fair and just position against the United States and regarding the demand for its withdrawal from the Gulf region and the suspension of the blockade."

The information minister again said that the latest UN resolution, which permits the sea blockade to be enforced with military means, if necessary, is "unjust and unfair." "As Waldheim said, this is an unprecedented resolution of the United Nations and the World Security Council. Some countries in the World Security Council have become servants of the United States," the Iraqi said.

Jasim Criticizes French Premier's Statements

JN2708212890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2010 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Commenting on a statement made by French Prime Minister Michel Rocard regarding the Gulf crisis, Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim said: The Gulf region dispute that he talked about is a dispute between the Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and the Muslims on one hand and imperialist America and its allies on the other. The minister pointed out that Rocard himself knows that the Iraqi people, the Arabs in all the Arab countries, and a great number of fair-minded people and the forces of good, progress, and peace in the world have expressed their opposition to the American interference in the Arabian Gulf region as well as their condemnation of the hostile U.S. threats against Iraq and the Arabs.

The minister added: Rocard can ask the French nationals which the Iraqi Government allowed to travel as a gesture of goodwill toward the friendly French people, to satisfy himself that the French and other nationals are guests of our people and government. They are in good condition and our people are taking care of them. They are not hostages.

The minister also said: Iraq was obliged to prevent some foreign countries' citizens from traveling for a noble and humanitarian purpose; namely, to help prevent the U.S. Administration from launching a war against Iraq—a war that would lead to the destruction of the entire region and which would harm the whole world. He added: Iraq has not prevented the foreigners from leaving for an inhuman demand such as the French Government has previously bowed to, contrary to Rocard's assertions.

The culture and information minister also explained: Rocard and his government should have gone back to leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative on 12 August 1990 and studied it seriously before giving a negative view. The world knows that solving the region's problems would be an interpretation of the president's initiative. He added: Rocard's announcement that he regretted the international community's failure to take a strong position similar to the one it took on the Gulf in order to implement the UN resolutions on the Palestine question is surprising. France, a permanent Security Council member state, should have adopted that position and should not have showed enthusiasm to implement resolutions imposed on the Security Council in order to besiege the Iraqi people—the elderly and children—instead of seeking implementation of the international organization's resolutions on the Zionist aggression against the Palestinian Arab people.

Minister Says France Has Much To Lose

PM2408142090 Paris LE FIGARO in French 23 Aug 90 p 5

[Interview with Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim by Claude Lorieux; date, place not given]

[Text] [Lorieux] The newspaper THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER this morning carries the front page headline: "French Nationals in Iraq Will Be Treated Like Americans." What was the difference? The French were not allowed to leave Iraqi territory and 26 of them were taken Saturday to an unknown destination, perhaps to strategic sites....

[Jasim] You must proceed from the principle that all foreigners residing in Iraq are our guests. We draw no distinction between American, French, or British civilians. They are all of equal worth as human beings. This being so, the Iraqi Government hoped that in this crisis France would adopt a different stance from the United States. Indeed, do not think that the Americans have come to defend Saudi Arabia. That is a lie. Saudi Arabia was not threatened. There is an outright American conspiracy whose objective is to control oil exports and prices. If France had distanced itself from the U.S. policy, we would have taken account of this in our decisions concerning its nationals' freedom of movement and right to travel.

[Lorieux] So did you expect France to act differently?

[Jasim] Yes, because our relations with France are different from those with the United States. They are not hindered by fixations. And we have not forgotten the fact that during the war against Iran France's attitude was very positive. The Europeans in general and the French in particular are becoming the victims of the covetousness of America, which wants to control oil and the oil region.

[Lorieux] President Mitterrand has toughened his orders to the French Navy and decided to send French troops to the United Arab Emirates....

[Jasim] This is a very serious and dangerous development. I cannot understand France. It has much to lose. What interest does it have in defending these Kuwaiti sheikhs whose sole concern in life is to accumulate women and money? The amir, Shaykh al-Jabir, had 55 wives. Many of these Gulf sheikhs are at present gambling in the casinos of Monte Carlo. And you are going to let young soldiers die to defend such people.

[Lorieux] These arguments do not justify your preventing foreigners from leaving.

[Jasim] First, these guests are treated with respect. They find themselves in embarrassing circumstances, just as

we find ourselves in embarrassing circumstances. All this is Bush's fault. Because if Bush pledges to withdraw his troops from Saudi Arabia, foreign nationals can return home. We are not terrorists. Our state is governed by law and by Islamic values.

[Lorieux] That does not alter the fact that you are violating all the principles of international law on people's freedom of movement.

[Jasim] Let us look at facts. The United States has amassed in the region the largest military force ever deployed since World War II. Moreover, they have their allies and friends. For our part, we must defend our population—20 million people. The foreign nationals found themselves in a situation whereby they became not a human shield but "humanitarian elements." This "humanitarian element" can make it possible to halt the aggression and to prevent the spark that would blow everything up. These foreign guests are messengers of peace, heroes of peace.

[Lorieux] How can you expect France to accept the fact that a four-year-old girl is among the 33 French citizens—the total of our fellow countrymen missing—French citizens who have perhaps been taken to strategic sites?

[Jasim] There is no conflict between us and the French public. Our problem is with the Americans. Should international law apply only to the weaker side—though we are not weak—and not to the aggressor? Kuwait has joined the Iraqi family. That is how it is. Is this a reason to starve the Iraqis and to deprive their children of milk?

[Lorieux] So let me visit my fellow countrymen who are missing.

[Jasim] I will try to arrange it.

[Lorieux] You have given foreign governments until Friday midnight to close their embassies in Kuwait. Diplomats will lose their privileges. Will you round them up and take them to Baghdad, as you did with some Western civilians?

[Jasim] No. We have notified them that they will be free to leave the country.

[Lorieux] Some diplomats want to stay on to continue their mission....

[Jasim] No. No way. The embassies will no longer exist. But diplomats will be able to work at their countries' embassies in Baghdad.

[Lorieux] Some will insist on guarding their diplomatic missions in Kuwait....

[Jasim] I do not believe that will be necessary. For my part, I advise them to observe our decision.

[Lorieux] Do you envisage using force to close the embassies and make the diplomats leave?

[Jasim] I do not believe that will be necessary. We have discussed the problem with the ambassadors in a friendly manner. If they remained they would be acting against our sovereignty. That would be tantamount to an act of aggression.

[Lorieux] Could you agree to the embassies' becoming consulates so that foreign residents can find diplomatic protection in Kuwait?

[Jasim] There will be no embassies or consulates in Kuwait. Let us not exhaust our nerves for no reason. Kuwait is part of Iraq: It is necessary to respond realistically to this fact. Allow me to make an appeal to the French people. Let them put pressure on the government. France must consider its own interests and not allow itself to be dragged into America's conspiracies. France has become the Arabs' friend because it adopted a stance independent of the United States. We hope that it will return to that policy.

[Lorieux] Do you believe that a country or group of countries could now usefully act as mediators in the conflict?

[Jasim] We never reject the principle of dialogue. In any case, we are expecting a visit from the Reverend Jesse Jackson, the former Democratic candidate to the U.S. presidency. But any dialogue must proceed from a solid basis: Kuwait is part of Iraq. This is an eternal truth that cannot change. So the dialogue must concern the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Gulf region.

[Lorieux] Your fundamental principle is that Kuwait no longer exists....

[Jasim] It no longer exists at all.

[Lorieux] But is that the only problem?

[Jasim] No, there are others. The real problem is oil.

'Aziz on UN Resolution, Arabs' Attitude

AU2708125890 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 27 Aug 90 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by DIE PRESSE; place and date not given: "Saddam is Arabia's Leader"]

[Text] [DIE PRESSE] Mr. Foreign Minister, is the new resolution of the UN Security Council influencing Iraq's policy?

['Aziz] We made it clear to the United Nations that such actions will not change our position. Iraq rejects such pressure, which is actually not created by the United Nations, but by the United States. The latter even exerts pressure on permanent Security Council members like the Soviet Union or China. However, such an unfair and unjust resolution does not change our position. I, as a diplomat, say that such a resolution will only complicate the situation in the region.

[DIE PRESSE] Only a few fraternal Arab countries stand by Iraq. Does this not cause you to think?

['Aziz] The actual situation in the Arab world is different. Most of the countries are in favor of Iraq, only some governments are against it. Public opinion is now for us. Now the governments will have to face great problems with their peoples. Iraq's position is currently very popular in the Arab world, it is the most popular since al-Nasir. Today Saddam Husayn is regarded as the leader of the Arab world. The people are going to free themselves from their manipulative governments, which are influenced by the aggressive U.S. policy. This is shown everywhere in the streets of Arab capitals where numerous demonstrations against the United States and Western Europe take place.

[DIE PRESSE] Has Washington responded to Iraq's offers of negotiations?

['Aziz] No, everything has been negative. The United States wants war, this is clear. It has come first to throw its weight around, and to keep a tight hold on the oil fields. But in reality it has come to remain there.

[DIE PRESSE] There were rumors that you had fallen into disgrace?

['Aziz] I had a good laugh at this. No, there are no differences whatsoever in our leadership.

Iraqis Use Ration Cards; Eat Dates, Yogurt

JN2808105790 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Aug 90 Second Edition p 1

[Text] Baghdad, PETRA—Iraqis have returned to the age of their Arab forefathers and have begun eating dates and yogurt as their main dish.

Some Iraqis have begun to dry tea after using it, which reflects the Iraqis' determination to thwart the economic blockade. The Iraqi Government has banned peddlers of juices and sweets from using sugar. Likewise, it has begun to distribute ration cards as a measure to prevent the storage of commodities.

It is to be recalled that since the oubreak of the war with Iran the Iraqi Government has specified the basic foodstuffs needed for feeding the body. It made dieting a necessity and made the occupation of leading state positions contingent on people having a specific weight to be compared against age and height. This policy proved to be successful.

Europe, Japan Urged To Consider Interests

JN2208124090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that the U.S. plan in the region is designed to enable Washington to impose its unilateral hegemony over the oilfields and to give it the upper hand in oil production and pricing.

In an article today under the headline: "Europe, Japan and the True Interests," the paper wonders: What interest do Europe and Japan have in rushing blindly after the U.S. plan that is basically designed to enable Washington to impose its hegemony over European and Japanese decisionmaking and to control their economy in the future. The paper says: The main objective of the U.S. plan in the region is to dwarf the role of Europe and Japan and their relations in this region. This was announced by the U.S. Administration through Bush himself to the effect that there is no alternative to U.S. leadership of the world, with all the dimensions and objectives of this leadership.

The paper adds: If the objective of the European and Japanese politicians is to show their solidarity with Washington, then they are sacrificing their countries' relations with the Arabs and their future interests in the region—and not only with Iraq. Certainly, Arabs will deal with the interests of any state that helps the U.S. aggressors in the same way they deal with the U.S. interests. The European and Japanese politicians must not be deluded into thinking that Iraq will lose this battle, which is being planned by Washington in an extremely hostile manner. Some wise European politicians have realized this fact and begun to raise their voices against this blind rush being demonstrated by some others. The rest of the politicians in Europe and Japan had better be more farsighted and wiser than the Americans, who are known for their recklessness and shortsightedness, and understand that the present and future Iraq is not an easy morsel for greedy mouths, and that it is capable of defeating the aggressors.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points to the fact that the new unified Iraq possesses a huge share of the world oil reserves and is a regional force to be reckoned with, not because of its wealth and strength but because of its deep-rooted history and humanitarian principles that constitute a moral credit which, most of the states that brag about the principles of justice, freedom, and brotherhood, lack.

Concluding its article, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: This is why we unhesitatingly say that these politicians should understand how to deal positively and morally with the new, unified Iraq instead of being dragged into the U.S. plans, which will eventually place them at Washington's mercy.

'Aziz Says United States Would Lose War

AU2308134890 Vienna KURIER in German 23 Aug 90 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Amman on 21 August by Karl Wendl: "America Would Lose a War"]

[Text] On Tuesday night [21 August] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz answered questions of international journalists in Amman. KURIER was present at these "informal talks," which sometimes degenerated into shouting duels. The gist of the cynical statements of the Iraqi politician are: "The foreigners are not hostages but

guests in Iraq. There was no reason for the United States to dispatch troops. We do not want war."

[Wendl] Mr. Minister, for days you have been trying to explain to the world that Saddam Husayn only wants peace. So why does Iraq keep 14,000 people from the West as hostages?

['Aziz] Iraq does not keep any hostages. I am sorry that U.S. President Bush used this word. The so-called hostages are nothing but guests in our country, guests, who are also treated as such.

[Wendl] Are guests usually locked up in military installations?

['Aziz] Our guests have not been locked up anywhere. They will only have to live with our people for a while, they will be well looked after, and they are an important argument for achieving a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. They guarantee that the United States will change its belligerent policy against the entire Arab people.

[Wendl] This policy was not initiated by the United States but by Iraq, when it invaded Kuwait. You are turning the perpetrator into the victim.

['Aziz] Baghdad has never announced an attack on Saudi Arabia. We are ready at any time to sign any guarantees that we do not want war.

[Wendl] How would you react in the case of an attack against Iraq?

['Aziz] If the Americans really wanted war then this would be the biggest and bloodiest crime in the history of the United States and the whole world.

[Wendl] Do you believe that Iraq could win a war against the United States?

['Aziz] It would be a bloody conflict, which would end with the defeat and the humiliation of the Americans.

[Wendl] How could the Gulf crisis be solved?

['Aziz] The Gulf conflict is an Arab conflict and can only be solved by Arabs and not by Washington. The West had better listen to what the people in the Arab world say. People speak out against the sheiks, who have lost the petrodollars in the casinos of the West, while the people in the streets did not get anything. The corrupt sheiks, who are now being supported by the West, have transferred billions of dollar to banks in the United States and Europe.

[Wendl] Will all Austrians be able to leave the crisis area?

['Aziz] I do not have any concrete information about the details of this situation. You must understand that we are currently facing administrative difficulties.

[Wendl] How long will Iraq be able to survive the trade embargo?

['Aziz] Iraq has a 5,000-year history. We have learned to survive.

'Aziz on 'Unjust' Positions of UN on Gulf Crisis

JN2208204590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA)—The foreign minister [Tariq 'Aziz] received today Virendra Dayal and Kofi Annan, envoys of the UN secretary general, who conveyed to him an oral message from Javier Perez de Cuellar.

INA learned that the minister said, during the meeting, that Iraq, which has always cooperated sincerely and earnestly with the United Nations to achieve its noble human objectives, particularly peace and justice, feels, together with all the Arabs—except the cliques that sold themselves out to the foreigner—the bitterness of the unjust and hasty positions adopted by the Security Council toward Iraq.

The minister said that the resolutions adopted by the Security Council were imposed by America on the Council, thus turning it into an American tool. This marks the beginning of a dark age in the history of the United Nations. He said that the Council did not act with this speed and or use this method in dealing with previous international problems; it never happened that the Council adopted resolutions within hours without listening to the representatives of the concerned party or giving him an opportunity to present his opinion, information, and justifications on a presented issue. Therefore, Iraq and all the Arab people have lost confidence in the neutrality of the Security Council in safeguarding peace and justice. He noted that the United States had used the veto many times to protect its allies, particularly the Zionist entity, to enable it to continue the occupation, repression, terrorism, and all kinds of violations while the Security Council did nothing.

The Iraqi minister said that the Arabs are not alone; all the world's peoples who are exposed to injustice and aggression share this view with Iraq and the Arabs. The minister noted that the Security Council became—as a result of the unjust and hasty resolutions it adopted—an American tool, not only to impose its hegemony over the region and control its resources by controlling the oil and strengthening its hegemony over the region but also to impose hegemony over the entire world.

The minister added that if the Council really wants to bring about peace it should start by discussing the initiatives announced by President Saddam Husayn on 12 and 19 August 1990 to deal with all regional issues on the basis of the same criteria and just principles.

The minister noted in particular the recent letter from the leader president to the U.S. President [as received; initiative referred to was contained in Saddam's 19 August letter to families of foreigners in Iraq] dated 19 August 1990. [passage omitted]

With regard to the measures announced by the speaker of the National Assembly, the foreign minister reaffirmed that Iraq safeguards the safety of those affected by these measures and is treating them well; they are the guests of the Iraqi people. Their situation is linked with the intentions of the U.S. Administration. The international community must put pressure on the U.S. Administration to stop the policy of war and aggression, withdraw its forces from the region, and leave regional affairs alone to be tackled within the Arab context.

Commentary Denounces U.S. Troops in Saudi Arabia

LD2208211490 Baghdad International Service in English 2000 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] When the United States sent its troops into Saudi Arabia, it said it was defending Saudi Arabia against the possible Iraqi attack. United States officials have said that their troops in Saudi Arabia were defensive and the United States has no intention to attack Iraq. However, recent reports say the United States was pouring offensive troops and equipment into Saudi Arabia for quite some time now, and that the likelihood of an attack on Iraq was substantially strong.

The eight-year-old Gulf war was no doubt an evil [word indistinct] losses and a tragedy upon (?the) Iraqis. However, this very war had one benefit for the Iraqis. It has taught every Iraqi how to be a soldier and how to use the gun properly. War-hardened Iraqi leadership has therefore come out as one of the world's top military brains. Right from the start of the American invasion of Saudi Arabia, more than Iraqi officials have been saying that the United States is in that Arab country to attack Iraq, and according to such a conclusion, the Iraqis have drawn up their plans, military or otherwise.

The presence of hundreds of thousands of United States and other allied troops in Saudi Arabia can in no way be interpreted as a defensive measure. Only simple-minded people can be convinced of the United States Administration's claim of confronting an Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia. Iraq apparently has not been taken by surprise with the new reports, as many Iraqi leaders are specialized in studying United States' intentions. The United States wants to impose hegemony on the region and, as some analysts put it, to teach the (?dirty) Iraq a lesson for disobeying the big Yankee. Washington wants governments in this vital region of the world to be weak enough to give in to expansionist demands of its [words indistinct] the United States' foothold in the Arab region.

Encouraged by the Soviet Union's retreat from the international arena, the United States sees itself as the only superpower with the muscle to impose its whims on others. The United States's invasion of Grenada, Panama, and Liberia are [word indistinct] examples of Washington's cowboy policy. Washington's attitude appears to be one of overconfidence. The United States is taken over by the feeling that it can do anything it wants with no party going to challenge it. For United States strategists, American military presence in the Middle East means a defensive line close to the Soviet Union, a line which would confront any future Soviet attempt to have an influence in this vital area. Hence the United States (?President) wants far beyond guarding oil wells in the area. It appears to be a years-long stay, as United States Defense Secretary Richard Cheney said last week.

The Iraqis are asserting that they know in detail the United States' plan and have the appropriate means to confront the Americans. The United States will be making a grave, rather fatal mistake if it (?hopes) that any attack on Iraq will be (?verily) a regional conflict. Any flareup in the Gulf will be an overall war, and the battlefield will not be confined to the Gulf region. One should not expect the Iraqis to sit idle when their towns and population centers are being bombarded by United States' planes and shells. Iraqis will take the war into the cities of the attacking nation if it is attacked.

Kuwait Declared '19th Governorate' of Iraq

JN2808084190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Kuwait has become the 19th governorate in the structure of administrative divisions of Iraq.

Iraqi newspapers issued today said that the Governorate of Kuwait, whose center is the Kazimah district, includes the al-Jahra and al-Nida' [al-Ahmadi] districts.

The papers referred to the creation of the Saddamiyat al-Mitla' district and al-'Abdali subdistrict in the al-Basrah Governorate, whose borders have been amended in accordance with the new amendments. The new city, Saddamiyat al-Mitla', is considered the center of the new district which includes the subdistricts of Safwan and al-'Abdali.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Speaks on TV, Supports Saddam

JN2008203890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—Former Kuwaiti Ambassador Ibrahim Jasim al-Bahu has described the return of the part—Kuwait—to the whole—Iraq—as a pan-Arab victory against the divisions that colonialism has imposed on the Arab nation for a long time.

In an interview with Baghdad television today he expressed the hope that the Arab nation will join forces to counter the threats it is facing. The Arab nation, he said, has long suffered from fragmentation and the Arab people have always demanded pan-Arab victories through full Arab unity.

He stressed that without unity the Arab people cannot adopt an honest and strong Arab position to counter challenges and colonial designs.

He described the presence of foreign, U.S., and Zionist forces on the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] as

dangerous and said this constitutes a return to abhorrent colonialism, from which the Arab nation long suffered.

He said the Arab nation has sacrificed a great deal of its sons over many generations to get rid of this colonialism.

Al-Bahu stressed that the Arab nation under President Saddam Husayn is able to overcome all difficulties and lead the Arab people to safe shores.

He called for solving the problems of the Arab nation within the bounds of the Arab family and away from foreign interference. He warned against colonialist schemes through foreign interference in Arab issues.

He refuted the false allegations around him and said they are baseless. He stressed that he, his family, and members and families of the former Kuwaiti diplomatic mission are living among their kinfolk in Iraq in normal circumstances and with full freedom.

Railroad, Water Lines To Link Al-Basrah, Kuwait

JN1708211990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—Competent authorities have made arrangements for laying a railroad track from al-Basrah to the City of Kuwait.

INA has also learned that arrangements have been made to lay a water pipeline between the two cities.

Saddam Husayn, PLO's 'Arafat Meet in Baghdad

JN2708182490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1803 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today visited Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and president of the state of Palestine, at his place of residence. During the visit they exchanged views on various developments on the Arab and international arenas. The leader president and Mr. 'Arafat stressed their full agreement to struggle against U.S. and foreign presence in the region and the unity of struggle between the Arab peoples in Palestine and Iraq and their joint struggle against the U.S. presence and Zionist occupation of the Arab territories.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; PLO Executive Committee members Salah Khalaf and Hani al-Hasan [titles as heard]; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Baghdad.

Sudanese, Libyan Officials Arrive in Baghdad

EA2608170690 Khartoum SUNA in English 1616 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Summary from poor reception] Baghdad, 26 August (SUNA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir arrived here today for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on ways of ending the Gulf crisis through Arab diplomatic channels. Al-Bashir arrived from Jordan, where he held talks with Crown Prince Hasan and other Jordanian officials. Gen. al-Bashir was accompanied by Libya's historic leadership member, Major Mustafa al-Kharrubi.

Meet With Saddam

EA2708110690 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, proceeded to Baghdad yesterday afternoon accompanied by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the historic leadership of the 1 September Libyan revolution. They were met at the Saddam International Airport by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn; Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier; senior Iraqi officials; the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad; and embassy staff.

Immediately after their arrival, talks were held in which Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir represented Sudan. Iraq was represented by President Saddam Husayn, while Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi represented Libya. The participants discussed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and ways of solving it within the Arab framework. The two presidents, Lt. Gen. 'Umar and Saddam Husayn, later held private talks lasting an hour.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar had arrived with Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi at Amman airport yesterday at noon for talks with Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan on developments in the Arabian Gulf.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar told the press that the purpose of his current tour was to find ways to solve the crisis in the Arabian Gulf peacefully within an Arab framework. He said that ways of preventing a war, which would be total and destructive, would be discussed.

The delegation accompanying Lt. Gen. 'Umar includes Mr. Yusuf Sa'id, the RCC chairman's political adviser, and Mr. al-Sadiq Bakhit, the RCC chairman's information adviser.

Libyan Envoy Conveys Message

JN2608184990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council.

Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi conveyed to the president an oral message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, dealing with brotherly relations between the two sisterly countries and the current situation.

Envoys Depart

JN2708103590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's National Salvation Revolution Command Council, and Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolution Command Council in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left Baghdad today at the end of a one-day official visit to Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn was the head of those at the airport to bid them farewell. [passage omitted]

Presidential Envoy Leaves for Lagos, Africa

JN2608122290 Baghdad INA in English 1050 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn's envoy, Mr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labour and social affairs, today left here for Lagos starting an African tour that will also take him to Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Uganda

The president envoy will during the tour convey verbal messages from President Husayn to the leaders of these countries related to bilateral relations and foreign situation in the region.

Algerian Envoy Conveys Solidarity to Saddam

JN2408204290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2010 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has received Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali, who conveyed to leader President Saddam Husayn a letter from Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid. In his letter, the Algerian president expressed the solidarity of the people and leadership of Algeria with Iraq in its fierce battle against aggression by imperialism and its allies. The battle, the letter says, epitomizes Arab pride and will to realize strength and progress.

Leader President Saddam Husayn said Iraq appreciated the position of the Algerian people and leadership. He stressed that militant solidarity among Arab countries and Arab masses would foil all the imperialist plans and that the Arab people throughout the Arab homeland were able to meet the requirements of confrontation of imperialism, regardless of the price. The leader president also affirmed his deep conviction that the Arab nation and its good forces will achieve victory in this battle.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Aziz Confers With Algerian, PLO Officials

JN2508142690 Baghdad INA in English 1025 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 25, INA—Iraq's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz yesterday met here separately with the Foreign Minister of Algeria, Ahmed Ghazali, and of Palestine Faruq Qaddumi.

During the two meetings, Mr. 'Aziz discussed with the Arab envoys bilateral ties, developments in the Arab region and some issues of common concern.

Present in both meetings was director of Arab Department, at the ministry,

Hammadi Receives Algerian Foreign Minister

JN2508134590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, this morning received Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali.

During the meeting, they reviewed fraternal bilateral ties, Arab and international developments, and issues of common interest.

The Algerian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Hammadi Returns Home From Moscow Visit

JN2208143290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1416 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Sa'dun Hammadi, envoy of His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn to the Soviet leadership, member of the Revolution Command Council, and deputy prime minister, returned to Baghdad from Moscow at noon today at the conclusion of a three-day visit to the USSR.

In a statement to INA, Sa'dun Hammadi described his visit as fruitful and successful. He added that during the visit he held talks with Soviet officials on the situation in the Arab region, particularly in the Arabian Gulf. He went on to say that he reviewed with these officials bilateral ties and ways to develop them.

Saddam Receives Indian External Affairs Minister

JN2008111290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Indian Minister of External Affairs I.K. Gujral, who conveyed to the leader president a message from the Indian president extending his greetings to the leader president and dealing with the existing strong relations between the two countries as well as the developments of the situation in the region.

Leader President Saddam Husayn requested Mr. Gujral to convey his excellency's greetings to the Indian president.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the under secretary of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

Saddam Meets With Yemeni Council Member

JN2008110490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council of the fraternal Republic of Yemen. Muhammad conveyed to the leader president a message from his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen, dealing with the relations between the two fraternal countries and the latest developments of the situation in the region.

Muhammad affirmed during this meeting that foreign presence on Arab territory constitutes a threat to the nation and its independence and exposes pan-Arab security to danger.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister in the Republic of Yemen; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and the ambassador of the Republic of Yemen in Baghdad.

'Udayy Saddam Husayn Writes About Father

JN2108102190

[Editorial report] Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 14 August carries on page 16 an approximately 1,000-word article by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, elder son of the Iraqi president, entitled "The Other Face of Saddam Husayn."

In this article, 'Udayy speaks about "events and facts" which reveal "the other face of Saddam Husayn," which is only known to his immediate family members. He says Saddam Husayn's main hobby is "fishing and looking after sheep" as it gives him "ample time for meditation."

'Udayy says Saddam Husayn is always willing to contribute to a good cause. He recalls that on two occasions Saddam Husayn donated his presidential salary, which in 1984 was 1,325 Iraqi dinars, and even sold his sheep, to help build tombs for his late mother and the late Ba'th Party Party founder Michel 'Aflaq. Iraqis will be surprised to know, he adds, that Saddam Husayn is most generous to "widows, orphans, families of martyrs, and the needy."

'Udayy continues: "When we returned from our minor pilgrimage [to Mecca], we told Saddam Husayn about the palaces and possessions of the Saudi kings and princes as related to us by the Saudis themselves. So, we joked about that and told him: People should not call you the knight of the Arabs but the poor man Saddam Husayn. He retorted: When I see Iraq and my people prosperous, I feel rich."

'Udayy adds: "Saddam Husayn has always hated money and he gets annoyed when people talk about it. He is very harsh on his relatives and always tells them that money is not everything in life. Sometimes, he rebukes those who consider money as the only means of life."

'Udayy says what Saddam Husayn fears most is God and the people. "I personally," he adds "have heard him say that he does not like to take any action for which he will be accountable before God Almighty on the Day of Judgment or for which he would be punished on earth." 'Udayy says Saddam Husayn is reassured and strong "when he feels that his entire people are solidly behind him".

Volunteers in Popular Army Approach 5 Million

JN2308081290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—It was reported here today that the number of Iraqi volunteers in the Popular Army up to 19 August reached 4,894,199 people.

Citing a source at the Popular Army General Command, the newspaper AL-'IRAQ says increasing turnout by our brave citizens will raise the figure to over five million over the coming few days. [passage omitted]

Iraqi, Iranian POW Exchange Continues

22 Aug by Land

JN2208144190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] The sixth batch of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] returned to the land of great Iraq from Iran today. The returning Iraqi POW's were accorded a massive popular and official reception in which mass and professional organizations and a large number of citizens took part.

Immediately upon arrival, the returning POW's kissed the soil of the homeland. Their tears mixed with the chaste earth of the land in expression of their love for great Iraq.

24 Aug by Land

JN2408171390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The ninth and 10th batches of Iraqi POW's, consisting of 3,000 prisoners, arrived in the homeland by land today. As soon as our dear prisoners arrived in the dear homeland, they chanted slogans hailing leader President Saddam Husayn and expressing appreciation for and pride in his humanitarian initiative to establish a comprehensive, durable peace between Iraq and Iran. [passage omitted]

The delivery center in al-Mundhiriyah was the scene of cooperation and understanding between the officials there and the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Iraqi and Iranian Red Crescent Societies. All requirements have been supplied and arrangements made to make our dear prisoners comfortable.

Meanwhile, the ninth and 10th batches of Iranian POW's, consisting of 3,000 prisoners, have been released and handed over in accordance with leader President Saddam Husayn's message to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of 15 August.

24 Aug by Air

JN2408202290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The second and third batches of Iraqi POW's transported by air arrived in the homeland this afternoon. The POW's, overjoyed by the sight of their homeland, mixed their tears with the chaste earth of the homeland as they kissed the land of great Iraq. [passage omitted]

More on 25 Aug

JN2608041590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1425 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The 11th batch of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] made up of 1,500 men returned home today. The repatriated POW's shouted cries and chanted slogans expressing pride in the motherland and the unique leadership of His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn and affirming their readiness to continue to make sacrifices to defend the dear homeland. [passage omitted]

In a related development, the 11th group of Iranian POW's ordered released in implementation of the provisions in the letter His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn sent to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 15 August, left Iraqi territory today. [Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1940 GMT on 25 August reports: "Three thousand Iraqi POW's returned home in two groups today—the 12th and 13th."]

26 Aug

JN2608084790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0813 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—Iraq today completed the delivery of all Iranian prisoners of war [POW's] who are registered in the country.

The Iraqi authorities have asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to start registering Iranian POW's who are not registered, as of tomorrow 27 August 1990, and to immediately hand over those registered to Iran.

An informed source has told INA that the means currently available will allow for the registration of 1,000 POW's daily, in order to prepare them for immediate delivery.

26 Aug by Air

JN2608181590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] The fifth and sixth batches of the Iraqi POW's arrived in the homeland by air today. Upon arrival, they chanted the name of the unique leader, President Saddam Husayn, praised his excellency's humanitarian initiatives, and were pleased to see great Iraq strong and victorious. In their chants they expressed their love for and loyalty to the leader president and their gratitude for his excellency's continued care for their families and relatives.

The POW's were accorded an official and popular reception in which popular organizations and crowds of people participated.

In another development, two new batches of Iranian POW's, whom Iraq had decided to release in accordance with leader President Saddam Husayn's letter to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 15 August, also left by air today.

More on 26 Aug

JN2608201390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—The 13th [as received] batch of Iraqi prisoners of war comprising 500 prisoners arrived here today.

The 13th batch of Iranian prisoners of war, whom Iraq had released in compliance with President Saddam Husayn's letter to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 15 August, left Iraq today.

27 Aug by Land

JN2708195790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—An informed source has told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that a new group of our dear prisoners of war arrived a short while ago at the prisoners delivery point on the Iraqi-Iranian border. He said the prisoners, who arrived late today, will be transported to their families early tomorrow morning.

The source added that a group of Iranian prisoners was delivered today to the Iranian side at the Iraqi-Iranian border. The two sides will continue the exchange of more prisoners via land tomorrow.

Shamir Says 'No Offensive Plans' To Attack Arabs

TA2708123490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir took time off from political matters today to tour construction sites in the southern part of the country. There our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh asked him to address questions on the situation in the region. Mr. Shamir said, among other things: Israel will not attack any Arab country; it wants peace.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I hope we will pass this crisis safely so we can continue to build this country.

[Ben-Melekh] Do we have some message from the Americans, or for them?

[Shamir] We maintain continuing contacts with our friends in the United States, who are pleased with our present position. Neither they nor we have any doubt that our interests are firmly linked.

[Ben-Melekh] One last question, Mr. Prime Minister: The Iraqi foreign minister said that they are taking an Israeli raid into consideration. What is your reaction to these remarks?

[Shamir] This is all imaginary. Israel has no offensive plans regarding any Arab country, be it even the most extremist. We want to live in peace in this region, and unless attacked we will not harm anyone. [end recording]

Jerusalem Denies Iraqi Claim of Planned Attack

TA2708054090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Here is Jerusalem's reaction to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's remark that Israel plans to attack the Iraqis: The Iraqis know very well that there is absolutely no truth in these arguments that Israel plans to attack them, says Jerusalem. Our political correspondent Arye Golan heard the reaction in Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] Iraq has perpetually been trying to drag Israel into the Gulf conflict, but to the extent that this depends on us, we have no desire to be part of this crisis. This was stated last night by Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shamir Expresses Concern at U.S. Delay on Loan

TA2708122590 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, speaking behind closed doors, has expressed his concern and astonishment with the fact that Washington has still not confirmed that the United States will give Israel guarantees for $400 million in loans necessary to build housing infrastructure for the Soviet immigrants. This, despite the positions adopted by Israel during the Gulf crisis, and despite Israel's cooperation with the United States on the political and intelligence levels.

Washington is not, at this stage, expressing any willingness on its part to wind up the bureaucratic process, and U.S. officials direct anyone asking to the most recent letter sent by U.S. Secretary of State Baker to his Israeli counterpart, stressing the U.S. commitment to move forward with the peace process as soon as the crisis in the Persian Gulf is resolved.

Shamir promised the Americans that no immigrants are being settled in the territories, and this promise remains valid even today. Therefore, it is not clear why the United States has withheld giving the guarantees for such a long time, especially since 15,000 immigrants are arriving in Israel each month, Gulf crisis notwithstanding.

Before the crisis in the Gulf broke out, these guarantees were used as a stick to pressure Israel into the political process and to give an affirmative response to the Baker questions. Now, when the order of priorities has completely changed, and the Baker questions are no longer as pressing as they were approximately one month ago, Shamir finds it hard to understand the reasons for this delay, and he has expressed his bafflement with this issue on numerous occasions.

The Israeli ambassador to Washington was recently instructed to raise the matter with his interlocutors over there, while the prime minister has discussed it with the people he meets in Israel. Just a few days ago he brought it up during his meeting with Frank Lautenberg, the Jewish senator who visited Israel recently.

Arens Views Crisis, Arab Arms 'Problem,' Defense

TA2708165690 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Rafi Reshef in network studio—live]

[Text] [Reshef] Our first guest is the defense minister. Good evening, Mr. Arens.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Reshef] Do you subscribe to the view that the likelihood of a war breaking out in the Persian Gulf has decreased?

[Arens] I would not like to speak in terms of the likelihood of something that none of us can determine, but I think Saddam Husayn is clearly in trouble. Until a few months ago he used to say he had to confront Israel, whereas today he has to face almost the entire world with the United States in the lead. The number of U.S. troops and aircraft carriers arriving in Saudi Arabia is growing. The man is in trouble, and I think he knows it.

[Reshef] Can we infer from your remarks that we would be satisfied if this is how the matter ended?

[Arens] We would be satisfied if there is no bloodshed, but we would be dissatisfied if Saddam Husayn, along

with his large army and the advanced technology he has developed with foreign assistance, remained in power.

[Reshef] Do you not see a contradiction between the desire not to see bloodshed and the wish to harm Saddam's position and troops?

[Arens] As you know, life is plagued with contradictions. At least at this point, I think the Americans hope the blockade will bring him to his knees. They would rather bring him to his knees by means of the blockade, but they are also ready for a military operation.

[Reshef] I would like to quote [American journalist] Robert Novak who praises Israel for keeping a low profile on the crisis, but at the same time notes that Israel is actually trying to drag the United States into a war in the Gulf.

[Arens] We are not dragging anyone either into a war or anything else. At the moment we are not involved—Kuwait is more than 1,000 km away from Israel—but we would certainly become involved if we were attacked.

[Reshef] Mr. Arens, if Saddam Husayn were to remain in power at the end of this crisis, would we be concerned or disappointed?

[Arens] If he remained in power along with the weapons currently at his disposal there would be room for Israel, the region and, I think, the entire world to be concerned. I think one of the positive aspects of this crisis is that we are not the only ones in the world aware of the danger this man poses to the entire world, not just to Israel and the region. Therefore, I hope this is not how the crisis ends.

[Reshef] You speak about hope and concern. Do these words imply anything in terms of our preparedness?

[Arens] Look, we are prepared and we were prepared even before the crisis broke out. Our situation has improved significantly since then because the Americans got into the picture.

[Reshef] You said that, on the face of it, we should be satisfied because Saddam Husayn used to be our enemy, whereas today he is the enemy of the entire world. Do you not think that the U.S. move—seeking the cooperation of and leading all the countries of the world, including the United Nations; dragging them into forcing a country which has occupied another country to retreat—will have repercussions on us and our region in the future?

[Arens] I do not think so. I occasionally hear this type of analogy, but I say it is totally unfounded. Who can even conceive of any analogy or resemblance whatsoever between Saddam Husayn, Iraq, and the State of Israel? The man is a ruthless dictator who waged a war for eight and one-half years which resulted in one million casualties.

[Reshef] With your permission, I do not think people say there is any resemblance. What they say is that today, contrary to the past, the world is able to speak with one voice. If that is so, why should this practice not be applied to other crises?

[Arens] The world is speaking with one voice on this matter. We are glad about it because the world has recognized a danger to the entire world. It seems to me that nobody would think of describing Israel as a danger to the world.

[Reshef] Mr. Arens, you are probably aware of the U.S. commitment toward Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and perhaps Syria, which have comported themselves as allies all through the current crisis. Do we have the right to demand from the United States not to supply modern weapons to those countries?

[Arens] We are fully entitled to present our security problems to the United States. I did as much with Secretary of Defense Mr. Cheney about a month ago, and we will continue to do that. I think the United States will remain committed to the security of the State of Israel. Weapons in the hands of Arab countries which say they are in a state of war with Israel constitute a danger to the State of Israel, if not today then tomorrow or one year hence.

[Reshef] Do you believe we will manage to persuade the United States on this point?

[Arens] I have no doubt that we will succeed in persuading the United States that the supply of weapons to the Arab armies entails a problem. When we discuss this issue with them I suppose we will agree on the course of action to be taken in the present circumstances.

[Reshef] Going back to the preparedness on the home front, has the subcommittee, which is scheduled to discuss the distribution of gas masks, begun operating?

[Arens] I have not yet attended a meeting of such a subcommittee, so I suppose it has not yet convened and has yet to meet.

[Reshef] Have its members been elected?

[Arens] The first time I heard about its appointment was in your newscast a few minutes ago.

[Reshef] What? Is the matter not urgent?

[Arens] I would not say that it is not urgent, but I think it should be emphasized there is no reason for us to feel tense. The man who is feeling and who deserves to feel tense today is Saddam Husayn.

[Reshef] Can you give us an estimate as to when the subcommittee will make a decision?

[Arens] I suppose the subcommittee will be chaired by the prime minister, and it is up to him to decide. I suppose the subcommittee will convene this week to discuss the issue.

[Reshef] If it decides in favor of distributing gas masks, how long would it take to implement its recommendations?

[Arens] It all depends on the recommendations. I would like to stress that the masks are not our defense. If you had been given a mask you would not be wearing it at this moment, and I am not even sure that you would have brought it to the studio. Our defense lies in the great deterrent ability of the State of Israel which Saddam Husayn takes into account—and we know he does.

[Reshef] I see. You believe more in our deterrent ability than in early warning. If I am not mistaken, you said in a radio interview that a missile takes four minutes to land and that in actual fact there is no way to be prepared for it.

[Arens] Look, there are the theoretical abilities. All in all, I would say that Iraq's ability to hit Israel is limited, even very limited. However, what will prevent it from taking such action is the response expected on our part.

[Reshef] Mr. Arens, I thank you very much for coming to our studio.

Foreign Ministry Views U.S. Contacts on Crisis

TA2808055190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The United States is keeping Israel in the picture. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday received another letter from President Bush, the second missive since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis. Bush praises Israel for the self-restraint it has exercised throughout the crisis. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

It was reported that the letter sent by the U.S. President is couched in extremely friendly, warm, and personal terms. President Bush expressed his appreciation for the positions Israel has taken during the Gulf crisis and also praised Israel's self-restraint since the crisis broke out. The Administration is interested in the continuation of the close dialogue between the two countries on all issues pertaining to the regional situation. This was the spirit of Bush's message to Shamir.

This letter reached Jerusalem, while in the background, several U.S. commentators have been claiming that Israel is attempting to drag the United States into a war in the Persian Gulf. Yosi Amihud, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday that no such advice had been given and that Israel has no intention whatsoever of giving any advice of this kind to the United States. Israel, the spokesman asserted, fully supports U.S. policy on the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Shamir Appoints Gas Mask Committee

TA2708173190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today appointed the members of the special ministerial committee on the distribution of gas masks. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the committee is composed of the prime minister, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Foreign Minister David Levi, and Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan. The committee also includes two other ministers who are members of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. The special ministerial team will hold its first session tomorrow.

'Arafat Moves To Link Gulf Crisis, Territories

TA2808094790 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 28 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, head of the PLO terrorist organization, has tried to exploit the Iraqi crisis and his support of Saddam Husayn in order to further his goals, in the event a diplomatic settlement is reached, by persuading Saddam Husayn to link any compromise in the Persian Gulf crisis to a resolution of the Palestinian problem. Reports of this have reached Jerusalem.

'Arafat is trying to convince Saddam Husayn to condition his withdrawal from Kuwait with a parallel Israeli withdrawal from the territories. This is what he wants in return for supporting Saddam Husayn. At the same time, 'Arafat is trying to mediate between Iraq and the superpowers, while comparing the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait to an Israeli withdrawal from the territories. He is also attempting to introduce the UN and the idea of an international conference into the general framework of mediation efforts directed to resolving the crisis. Since 'Arafat has lost a great deal of credibility on the international scene as a result of his support of Iraq, he is now trying to adopt the role of a mediator while linking both issues [Kuwait and the territories] together.

'Arafat has drawn encouragement from declarations issued in Moscow by the French and Soviet foreign ministers about the need to hold an international conference on the Middle East.

Ne'eman Considers Iraqi Nuclear Capability

TA2808101990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Aug 90 p 2

[Report by Matthew Seriphs]

[Text] If Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is not stopped, he will be able to produce nuclear weapons in "as little as three years," Science and Technology Minister Yuval Ne'eman warned yesterday.

Speaking at the Tehiya party's first international conference in Jerusalem, the minister—a leading physicist—said Iraq's nuclear advances had increased the need for concerted Western action.

Ne'eman added that he did not think Iraq would attempt to involve Israel directly in the crisis because of this country's formidable deterrent capacity.

"While attracted by the idea of uniting the Arab states behind him against Israel, on the practical level Saddam Husayn probably does not dare to strike at us at this stage," he said.

Ne'eman, who caused a controversy only weeks before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait by urging that Israel produce chemical weapons in response to an Iraqi threat to use them, thought that Saddam's recent rapprochement with Iran showed that he was merely "trying to survive" the current storm.

Ne'eman told the Tehiya delegates that recent events had brought about the destruction of certain myths concerning Israel's place in the Middle East.

He accused the national unity government of 1985-86, under Shim'on Peres, of giving currency to two mistaken ideas: that the demographic consideration—giving up the territories to ensure a Jewish majority in Israel—was more important than having the land as a buffer, and that "atavistic" worries about defence were excessively alarmist.

"We are living through the collapse of these two paradigms," the minister said.

Ne'eman spoke of an about-face in the West's attitude to the Middle East since the Iraqi invasion, and a new understanding throughout the world about the dangers that lurked in the region.

He said that Israel's security could benefit—without active involvement of Israel's part—if the West carried out its declared ultimatums. "It is now a problem of the Western world's resolve," he said.

Palestinian Leaders Qualify Support for Saddam

TA2408121590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] The Palestinian leadership and the wealthy classes in the territories are not expressing full support for Saddam Husayn and his actions. The representatives of the Palestinian leadership claim that this constitutes no change in their policy. A leaflet published yesterday condemned those claims and asserted that those making them had no right to claim to represent the Palestinian people. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports:

The support accorded Saddam Husayn from the residents of the territories is beginning to erode. Many, especially among the wealthier businessmen and the rich, have been financially hurt by the crisis and are no longer eager to take to the streets to demonstrate their support of Iraq. These people are joined by the political activists. The Palestinian leadership is attempting to shrug off its identification with Saddam Husayn's positions. People who at the inception of the crisis refrained from any harsh or unequivocal condemnation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait now claim that their position is clear: a political resolution that will bind all the Arab population in the territories. Here are remarks by Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, one of the more prominent Palestinian leaders:

[Begin Abu-Zayyad recording] Whatever the sentiment among the Palestinians on the street—whatever they feel, express, or say—obligates the PLO and all the Palestinians, as long as the PLO does not renounce the decisions taken by the Palestine National Council. I think the Palestinians have reached a decision to find a political solution on the basis of two countries for two nations. They arrived at this conclusion out of conviction. [end recording]

Other leading figures said that the demonstrations and expressions of support were spontaneous and now people are starting to see things differently. It should be noted that the cut in funds from the Gulf states, and the drastic devaluation of the Kuwaiti dinar, have led to a change in opinions. Nevertheless, many still regard Saddam Husayn to be the Arab savior and condemn the stance adopted by their leadership. This is manifested in a leaflet disseminated by an organization known as the Pioneer Guardians of Palestine, which accuses the leadership of taking an anti-nationalistic line that harms the Arab unity. The leaflet, which was distributed in Nabulus and Janin, asserts that the public communiques condemning the invasion of Kuwait constitute support for the U.S. intervention. Therefore, the leaflet stipulates, the leadership has lost the trust of the people, and the right to lead the Palestinians in the territories.

Palestinians Return to Kuwait 'To Help Saddam'

TA2608145890 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Aug 90 p 3

[Report by military correspondent On Levi]

[Text] Dozens of Palestinian residents of the territories who in the past few years had resided in Kuwait, last weekend began returning to Kuwait.

Last Thursday, long lines of cars loaded with suitcases and other personal gear were seen heading from the West Bank to Jordan en route to Kuwait, while others were traveling to Saudi Arabia. According to the Palestinians they are returning to Kuwait without fear. They made serious charges against U.S. President Bush, claiming that the oil belongs to the Arab nation and that President Bush should not have stuck his nose into internal Arab affairs.

On their way to Kuwait, the Palestinians shouted belligerent slogans condemning the United States and Israel. According to them, they are returning to Kuwait to help Saddam hold on to Kuwait.

It is worth mentioning that during the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, Palestinians residing there helped the invading Iraqi troops. The return of Palestinians to Kuwait stands out against the backdrop of the escape from Kuwait by Egyptian laborers.

Shamir Rejects Likud-Labor Defense Forum Idea

TA2608115590 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Text] A former Labor Party minister close to former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has recently appealed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, suggesting that a superior defense forum, composed of representatives of both major parties, be set up to handle the Gulf crisis.

Shamir has rejected the suggestion, claiming that the current state of affairs does not warrant such a forum.

The proposition had aimed at involving the Labor Party in the process of decisionmaking on issues related to the Gulf crisis, without it formally joining the government.

It has been learned that the prime minister does not exclude the possibility of setting up a national unity government, if an escalation in the Gulf or some form of Israeli involvement there takes place. Currently, however, Shamir does not believe that the defense risk justifies the political storm that would accompany setting up an emergency government. Furthermore, such a step could be interpreted as Israeli preparation for war.

Sources in the Labor Party said last night that if the possibility of setting up a national unity government develops, party chairman Shim'on Peres could demand that he be given the Defense Ministry portfolio.

Peres Rejects Unity Government Participation

TA2508094090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres believes that the Gulf crisis will end with Saddam's defeat in three months. Mr. Peres rejected the possibility of the Labor Party joining a national unity government in view of the tension in the Gulf, and he said that this crisis would even accelerate the peace process.

According to him, in these days we must be busy developing a common market for water and tourism in the Middle East that would be an appropriate response to the EEC and U.S. markets, and that would solve most of Israel's economic problems. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that Mr. Peres was speaking before Labor Party members in Kibbutz Yif'at.

Shamir Reaffirms Commitment to Yemeni Jews

TA2808102590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Even in these troubled times, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir found the time at the end of a hectic day to appear at the opening ceremony of the first congress for the study of Yemenite Jewry. Yitzhaq Shamir said that the government is exerting efforts in order to permit the aliyah of those Jews who still remain in Yemen.

[Begin Shamir recording] We never cease for a moment in our unflagging efforts to bring home the remaining Jews from those countries in which they find themselves in distress. We know that many Jews are still imprisoned in North Yemen, expecting to be reunited with their people and with their families. The echoes of their captivity and their longing continuously hammer upon the doors of our conscience. How much do I, and we all, long to see them among us, with us in our country. But do not worry, this too will come to pass, [applause] God willing. [end recording]

No Role Expected in Jordan Uprising Scenario

TA2708120390 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] Israel will no longer protect Jordan's King Husayn and has no intention of helping the king keep his throne if Jordan's mostly Palestinian populace decides to change the regime without any external assistance from Iraq or the PLO—this is the consensus among senior government officials.

Sources within the bureaus of senior ministers let it be known that if the demonstrations were to continue in Jordan, Israel would not intervene in that country's internal affairs, as opposed to what happened in 1970 when Israel put its forces on alert in light of a possible Syrian invasion of Jordan, or when the Hashemite regime was endangered during "Black September."

Israel may oppose Yasir 'Arafat's coming to power in Jordan, but it will not stand in the way of Jordanian Palestinians who wish to express their right to self-determination or to attain their legitimate rights in Jordan, with the help of certain Arab countries.

The senior policy-making ministers would apparently still like to see King Husayn remain in power, but are aware of the fact that his hold on power is tenuous. Some estimates see Husayn as being forced out of power in the near future. The prime minister has reiterated again and again that Israel is interested in Jordan maintaining its stability, and the king retaining his throne.

The policy-makers in Jerusalem have taken a forgiving attitude toward the anti-Israeli and anti-Zionist statements made by the king recently. His remarks about the world-encompassing power of the Zionist Movement have only raised smiles in the prime minister's and defense minister's bureaus.

King Husayn Said To Pay Secret Visit to Tehran

NC2708132090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1304 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Aug (MENA)—Citing diplomatic sources in Tehran, the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today revealed that King Husayn of Jordan paid a secret visit to Tehran the night before last.

Some Arabs Trying To 'Sabotage' Mediation

JN2808101290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Aug 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Jordanian Moves and the Increasing International Respect"]

[Text] At a time when Jordanian diplomatic moves are gaining further attention and respect on both the Arab and international scenes, and when there is increasing acceptance of Husayn's call for giving the Arabs the chance to resolve the raging crisis, some people are emerging from here and there and jumping around to this and that capital to jumble up the Jordanian role and sabotage the desired political solution to this crisis.

Regrettably, some Arabs who do not want to see the Jordanian political efforts succeed converge in this position of theirs with the positions of some Western quarters, Israel, and other warmongers who are fanning the flames of war. It looks as though these Arabs are pushing for war and fearing the occurrence of a development that might prevent it from breaking out.

For example, we can understand why Israel is offering malicious advice to the U.S. Administration and why Zionist quarters are pushing President Bush to shed lots of Arab blood around the Gulf and in the Arabian peninsula. However, we cannot understand these frenzied attempts by some Arabs to involve U.S. invasion troops in a conflagration. Moreover, we cannot understand these threats which they are airing through the news media. We cannot understand how they can seek the assistance of the enemies of Arabs and Islam, as if war is not going to burn their tails, not to mention their bodies.

While seeing and hearing the great admiration being voiced for Jordanian diplomatic efforts and the importance attached to the proposed Arab solution, as well as the increasing acceptance of this proposed solution, we continue to have hopes that the brothers, all brothers, will not forget the maxims regarding this big crisis. The reference here is to the fact that the Arabs will be the first to lose from nurturing the enmity of foreigners toward Arabs and from pushing them to start a fire around Arab oil wells.

Every time the sun rises on this homeland—which is small in size and has limited resources, but big in its role and dreams, our faith grows that Arabs will eventually manage to entomb the conspiracy targeting them and defeat the new crusaders' onslaught against their homeland and sanctities. As for the invaders, they only have to listen to the anger raging within Arab hearts, getting ready to scorch the earth under their feet.

Two Ships Enter Al-'Aqabah, Third Turned Back

JN2708181990 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1747 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Engineer 'Awad al-Tall, director general of the Ports Authority, has said that a foreign vessel arrived at the Port of al-'Aqabah today and unloaded its cargo, having been subjected to thorough inspection at the Gulf entrance by the U.S. Navy and then allowed to proceed to the port. Another cargo ship originating in Europe also unloaded at the port.

The JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY—PETRA, meanwhile, quotes sources at the port of al-'Aqabah that yesterday a ship with a cargo of Japanese car spare parts was refused entry into the port of al-'Aqabah by the U.S. Navy. It was also kept from unloading at Egyptian and Saudi ports.

Editorial Assails U.S. Role in UN Resolution

JN2608084190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Aug 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "A U.S. Resolution With an International Veil"]

[Text] It was regrettable rather than surprising that the Security Council should adopt, under strong U.S. pressure and persistence, a new resolution empowering U.S. military forces to impose a complete trade embargo on Iraq—something which represents a very dangerous international precedent.

This UN resolution is no more than a U.S. resolution given a pale international hue. In fact, we can say—while witnessing what is happening and the pressures and bribes being distributed here and there—that this resolution was exacted by Washington through the force of the stick and carrot together, and not through any other moral force.

No doubt the United States has found the opportunity to capitalize on the new international order to peddle its desires under the blanket of the Security Council, especially after the end of the Soviet Union as a superpower and after its position toward the United States became no different than any Latin American state.

We view the new Security Council resolution, therefore, as devoid of any legitimacy, after approving for the first time in its history starving an entire people in order to satisfy the objectives of a state which is massing armies and fleets and which declared in advance its intention to change the system of government in a free, independent country.

By adopting this resolution, the Security Council has slipped into a position which we had hoped not to see and has been transformed, owing to this detestable action, into a docile instrument of U.S. policy, especially since this Council was

asked to curb U.S. aggressiveness, and not to give the gunboat policy a suspect international legitimacy.

While denouncing the Security Council resolution and expressing deep regret over the loathsome, humiliating stand adopted by the Soviet Union, we would like to remind the Security Council permanent members that Israel has been occupying others' lands for about 23 years. Will the gentlemen at the Security Council remember this fact, which should cause great embarrassment and shame to this renowned international body?

Speakers at Rally Condemn U.S. Role in Gulf

JN2508093790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Aug 90 p 12

[Excerpt] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Popular condemnation of foreign intervention in the Gulf and support for fraternal Iraq over its honorable stance and for His Majesty King Husayn's positions continue in the form of speech rallies and massive marches.

The al-Mahattah Camp Youth Club organized a massive speech rally yesterday afternoon. The speakers stressed their absolute support for His Majesty King Husayn's policy and their full backing for the fraternal Iraqi people.

Speaking for the club, Mr. Nabil al-Bayyari stressed the need to boycott U.S. commodities in view of the anti-Arab U.S. positions. He condemned the flagrant U.S. intervention in the Arabian peninsula and said the crisis must be solved within an Arab framework.

Fatah Central Committee Member 'Abbas Zaki said in his speech that what is taking place is a conspiracy to hurt Iraq and its steadfastness and impose hegemony on the Arab region.

He said that after the Iraq-Iran war came to an end, the United States put three conditions on Iraq: to reduce its forces to one-fourth, stop military industrialization, and refrain from intervening in oil prices.

Iraq, he added, rejected the U.S. conditions, prompting Washington to send its troops to the region to tighten control over it.

He stressed that if Iraq had not entered Kuwait, the United States would have invaded it.

Dr. Nadir al-Tamimi, the mufti of the Palestine Liberation Army, said in his speech that what is taking place is a crusader invasion of the region.

He called for concerted efforts to beat back the aggressor and defend the dignity of the Arab and Islamic nation.

He strongly attacked the Arab regimes that sided with the enemies of the nation and adopted positions against the interests of the Arab people; these regimes must collapse, he said. [passage omitted]

Parliamentarians Protest Foreign Troops in Gulf

LD2208133490 Algiers APS in English 1023 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 22 August (APS)—Algerian and Jordanian parliamentarians qualified Tuesday [21 August] in Amman the presence of foreign troops in the Arabian Peninsula as "an unprecedented affront to the holy places of Arabs and Moslems". A communique issued at the end of talks oetween a delegation of representatives of the Jordanian parliament and an Algerian parliamentary delegation led by a vice president of the People's National Assembly, affirmed that this intervention constitutes "an attempt to enable the Zionist enemy to realize its dream of the Greater Israel".

Moreover, the two sides reaffirmed their "support to Iraq" and called on Arab and Moslem countries "to help Iraq by all means in order to protect the Iraqi people from attempts aimed at starving them".

Ministry Bans Dealings With 42 Foreign Companies

JN2508134890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The Ministry of Finance has issued a resolution in which it bans dealings with 42 foreign companies due to their own dealings with Israel, contrary to the provisions of the unified law on boycotting Israel. The resolution also lifts the ban on eight foreign companies after they set matters right in accordance with the provisions of the boycott law.

Saudi Border Officials 'Harsh' Toward Jordanians

JN2708090090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Aug 90 p 3

[By 'Ali Masarwah: "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—Reports intensified Sunday that Jordanian truck drivers transporting food supplies to Saudi Arabia were being harassed by Saudi border officials and police. According to several transport companies dealing with Saudi officials on a day-to-day basis, numerous truck drivers reported being harassed and subjected to abuse by Saudi officials and police.

The Union of Truck Owners said it had received word of truck drivers being hassled by the Saudis. The union said, however, that truck drivers, fearing reprisals by the Saudis, had refrained from issuing formal complaints to the union.

"Saudi border controls at the Halat 'Ammar checkpoint have been unusually harsh over the past weeks; they (the Saudis) damaged the cooling system of the truck, searched it over and over again and even damaged some of the cargo," a Jordanian truck driver said.

Similar reports were received about the conduct of Saudi officials on the transit road to the United Arab Emirates,

where Jordanian truckers were apparently held at the Saudi-Emirate border for several days while their trucks were thoroughly searched.

"The Saudis have always been very meticulous in searching our trucks as they often suspected us of smuggling drugs and alcohol, but what I encountered during my last tour was extreme. They practically tore everything apart," one truck driver, who preferred to remain anonymous, told the JORDAN TIMES.

These reported harassments by the Saudi border officials according to the truckers seem to be arbitrary acts of individuals and do not represent the official Saudi government policy. "After the Saudi border police threatened to turn us back at the Saudi-Emirate border, we told them that we were their brothers and had nothing to do with politics. Subsequently, they let us pass," another truck driver said.

Reports that Jordanian trucks, carrying goods to Saudi Arabia, had been turned back at the Jordanian-Saudi border were denied by official government sources and trucking companies.

"The export of Jordanian vegetables to Saudi Arabia is continuing at a normal pace: reports of trucks being turned back (at the border) and of the disruption of the supply line to Saudi Arabia are unfounded and untrue," the Minister of Agriculture Sulayman 'Arabiyat told the Jordan Times.

Secretary-General of the Ministry of Supply Razi Ibrahim confirmed this, saying that traffic between Jordan and Saudi Arabia was flowing in a normal manner with no delays or hindrances on either side of the border being reported.

"A special government committee, comprising officials from various ministries, was set up to deal with border problems arising from the current Gulf crises; it (the committee) has not received any information about obstacles facing traffic at the Saudi-Jordanian border," Ibrahim maintained.

Prince Hasan on Saddam, Chances for Solution

JN2508193390 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan by unidentified BBC reporter in English with Arabic subtitles; place, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Has the danger of war increased, as far as you are concerned in the last 48 hours, because two days ago King Husayn himself was talking of an explosion which would devastate not only the region but the world in a way?

[Hasan] I believe so, sir. The total exclusion of any diplomatic middle ground is clearly not the policy of the superpower, the United States. And the superpower, of course, speaks with many voices. But, in a way we are on this roller coaster, and I think the time has really come for us to review with other Arab leaders, with many in the world including possibly the United States, the possibility, as his majesty discussed with President Bush a few days ago, of stopping the escalation at a certain point and giving peace a chance.

[Reporter] When is King Husayn going to Baghdad, and when he does go there, is he going to use all the influence at his disposal to try and secure the release of the remaining foreigners being held in Iraq and Kuwait now?

[Hasan] We've been very clear on this issue from the outset. This country has a very clear position on humanitarian issues, has always stood on principle in terms of condemning acts of violence or of terrorism in the world and certainly this has been a point we've made very clear. It is affecting us: The open border, the continuous crossing of tens of thousands of different nationalities the world over. Yes, we will continue to seek their release, but let me remind you that they are in a war zone, and the escalation is effectively related directly, as you know, to the present state.

[Reporter] But you will do everything at your disposal to try and persuade President Saddam Husayn to change his mind on that issue?

[Hasan] Well, we are doing everything we can to talk to President Saddam Husayn, and I think I'd like to reassure you that there is a rational response. But if Iraq is isolated, cut off, and badgered by all kinds of pressures including the potential of military pressure just around the corner, then you do get a reaction of Solomon in the temple and talk of martyrdom and so forth, which we believe is very real, and certainly passions are very high, not least in our own street here. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Do you think there is a danger, then, of Jordan's policy falling on stony ground in the end, because so many people in the West have taken a certain strong view on Saddam Husayn which they can't go back on, namely that he is a loose cannon rolling around the Middle East who may go nuclear at any moment, and he has in the long run, or the medium term, to be neutralized?

[Hasan] Is it better to have tried in the name of peace than not to have tried at all? As far as we've observed over the last several decades, there has always been a Western search for a villain, whether Ayatollah Khomeyni at a given moment, or President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir at a given moment, or Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, or the president of Iraq. I mean the time has come really for us to look at the root causes of instability in this region—the disparities, the haves and have nots, the whole question of weapons of mass destruction. Let us initiate a process of cooperation over security and human matters as in Europe for the next decade. Let us turn the lemon into lemonade. Let's find the silver lining in this ghastly crisis that has projected the Middle East into the forefront after having been marginalized for so long. But war, of course, will offer a totally different doomsday scenario, and we can't just sit back and wait

for that doomsday scenario, you could say, but I think that we have to avert it. [passage omitted]

First Group of Volunteers To Leave For Iraq

JN2608061190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Lawyer Muhammad al-Rashdan, secretary general of the popular committee for the support of Iraq, has stated that the first batch of volunteers will leave for fraternal Iraq within 48 hours.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Rashdan said the first batch will comprise about 2000 volunteers. The committee opened the door for volunteers at its centers in various parts of the Kingdom. There have been tens of thousands of volunteers.

Convoy With Food for Iraqi Children Departs

JN2708201590 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1755 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] The first convoy of charitable aid for the children of Iraq, organized by the General Union of Charitable Societies [GUCS] in Jordan, left today. The convoy consists of 10 trucks carrying milk, medicines, and other foodstuffs such as eggs and chickens for the Child Care Organization in Iraq.

The GUCS has organized this campaign in accordance with the charters of the United Nations and regional childrens rights' organizations with the aim of maintaining childrens' rights to health, nourishment, and a good life.

The GUCS in Jordan views this convoy as a call to international and regional organizations and other childrens institutions all over the world to send milk and children's nourishment and medicines—either directly or through the GUCS in Jordan—to children in Iraq.

Envoy to Kuwait Returns Home 28 Aug

NC2808082790 Paris AFP in English 0756 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug 28 (AFP)—Kuwait's ambassador to Jordan, Suleyman al-Fassim [name as received], has returned to his post here after fleeing Iraqi-occupied Kuwait to Saudi Arabia, reliable sources said in the Jordanian capital Tuesday.

Mr. al-Fassim was in Kuwait before Iraqi troops invaded the tiny oil-rich emirate on August 2.

He had initially gone there to be among Kuwaiti government officials welcoming Jordan's King Husayn for a visit to the emirate on July 30 and remained for further consultations.

On the morning of the invasion, Mr. al-Fassim was at the Sheraton Hotel—one of the first landmarks seized by invading Iraqi troops—from where he managed to escape three days later.

Mr. al-Fassim hid in various parts of the city for 10 days before trekking across the desert to Saudi Arabia.

The Kuwaiti embassy in Jordan has continued to function although Jordan decided four days ago to shut down in mission in Kuwait in response to an Iraqi order that all embassies and diplomatic representation in the emirate close and relocate to Baghdad.

Several Kuwaiti officials, including most of the members of the ruling al-Sabah family were able to flee Kuwait in the aftermath of the invasion and before Iraq announced it was annexing the emirate.

'Sharp Increase' in Value of Kuwaiti Dinar

JN2808095590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] The exchange rate of the Kuwaiti dinar registered a sharp increase in the unofficial exchange markets in Amman yesterday when it reached 700 fils or approximately $1. This is not to be attributed to any political developments pertaining to the future of the Kuwaiti dinar. It was the result of a Saudi decision to exchange the Kuwaiti dinar in accordance with its old exchange rate to support Kuwaiti refugees.

It is certain that the Kuwaiti dinars, which will be collected from various markets, will be exchanged for other currencies in Saudi Arabia; this will allow money-changers to make more than a 200 percent profit from such dealings.

Food Shipment Arrives for Thai Workers 25 Aug

BK2608020290 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The first shipment of food from Thailand arrived here yesterday for the estimated 1,100 Thai nationals waiting for the repatriation in the week to come.

The two tonnes of food comprising rice, instant noodles, canned food and fish sauces, were immediately distributed by the Thai officials at the International Exhibition Hall, which has been turned into an evacuation centre.

Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan said in the next few days there will be at least nine flights from Thailand that will carry similar foodstuffs for the Thais.

During his visit to the centre on Thursday and Friday, the Thai workers complained to him about the shortage of food and sanitation problems.

The 1,500 square metre centre hall, is normally used for annual international trade exhibitions. As of last night, about 7,000 foreigners, mainly Bangladeshi and Arabs, were camping there.

New arivals have to stay outside the exhibition hall, using card boards or plastic sheets to build makeshift shelters. The Jordanian government has provided military tents for stranded Arabs from Kuwait and other areas.

According to the Thai workers, they were given pita bread with cucumbers and tomatoes once a day.

Jordan is facing a shortage of rice and sugar now. Some Thai workers brought rice with them which they cooked in their mobile kitchens.

So far, according to an EEC relief worker, Thailand has been the most effective in sending home its workers from Jordan. Other foreign nationalities are waiting for their government's assistance.

He said some European countries are planning to send planes to airlift the remaining refugees.

Praphat on Friday night discussed the repatriation plan for the second time with Mutasim Ismail Belbilsi [name as published], Jordan's permanent secretary for foreign affairs.

Jordan has officially reopened its border after closing it for 48 hours to clear a massive pile-up of evacuees from Kuwait.

Praphat said Jordan will consider the Thai request to set up a temporary evacuation office.

However, with the on-going smooth evacuation of the Thai workers, Thai officials said the office might not be necessary.

Officials at first feared that there would be a continued influx of the estimated 700 Thai workers from Kuwait and 3,000 from Iraq. "If the Thais are coming to Jordan at the rate of a few hundred a day, we can handle it," said Somphet Watthanasap, a Thai labour official.

Officials expected that there would be more Thai workers leaving Kuwait, via Iraq, because the Thai Embassy, as well as other embassies, would be forced to close down.

Iraq has warned that anyone still in the embassies after yesterday's deadline would be removed by force and treated as any other foreigner.

Kopsak Chutikun, ambassador attached to the Foreign Ministry, said the Thai Government has chartered extra flights to carry a total of 2,279 Thais from Amman in the next four days. "We have made provisions for those who arrive later on," he said.

During the discussion with Belbilsi, Praphat said Jordan has assured Thailand that the Thais will be allowed to cross the border into that country without any difficulty.

Belbilsi said Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Al-Qasim, who is also deputy prime minister, was unable to meet the Thai delegation because he was in China to discuss the Gulf crisis.

Al-Qasim may stopover in Bangkok on his way back to Amman, Belbilsi said.

Al-Bashir Meets With Crown Prince, Departs

JN2608121690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's National Salvation Revolution Command Council, left Amman today following a brief visit to Jordan during which he met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and a number of senior officials to discuss the efforts made by a number of Arab leaders to put an end to the Gulf crisis within the Arab context. He was seen off at the airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Senate president, the House of Representatives speaker, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, a number of ministers and senior civil and military officials, and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman.

At noon today His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Lt. Gen. al-Bashir held a round of talks at Amman civil airport. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, his majesty the king's political adviser; Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister; and Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, information minister. On the Sudanese side, the talks were attended by Yusuf Sa'id and Sadiq Bakhit, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's political and media advisers respectively, and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman.

His Excellency Lt. Gen. al-Bashir arrived in Amman this morning on his way to Iraq. He made a statement in which he said: We are exerting every possible effort to avert war, which will be a destructive war in view of the size and type of weapons that can be used in it. We are seeking to formulate an Arab initiative for that end, and we are continuing our contacts with the brother Arab leaders.

His excellency praised His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to contain the Gulf crisis within the Arab context.

He was received at the airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Senate president, the House of Representatives speaker, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, a number of ministers and senior civil and military officials, and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman. The honor guard gave the salute to his excellency the guest on arrival at the airport.

PNC Delegation Leaves for Tehran To Discuss Crisis

JN2608100290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Aug 90 Second Edition p 1

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Salih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], left Amman Saturday for Tehran, at the head of a delegation which comprises

Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member, and 'Abbas Zaki, the Fatah Central Committee member, on a visit to Iran.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Amman, a responsible source at the PNC said that the visit is in response to an invitation by the Iranian Consultative Council speaker.

The source also added that, during the visit, the Palestinian delegation will hold talks with senior Iranian officials on the latest developments of the current crisis in the Gulf region and the means to resolve it through the cooperation of Islamic states.

Democratic Unity and Justice Party Established

JN2708110090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—The birth of the Democratic Unity and Justice Party [hizb al-wahdah wa al-'adalah al-dimuqrati] was announced recently. The party is still under establishment. The elected secretary general, 'Arif Majri al-'Utaybi, declared: "The party is Jordanian in affiliation with the homeland, Palestinian in allegiance to the Palestine question, and Arab in loyalty to unity. It believes in and works for the achievement of national unity, social justice, and realistic freedom."

The party's political program can be summed up in the following points:

1. In domestic policy: The party will work to end regionalism, racism, sectarianism, and nepotism. It will work toward placing the right man in the right place and activating the constitution to enable the nation to play its role fully as a source of authority and a maker of fateful decisions. The party believes in party pluralism when its objectives do not contradict the nation's aspirations toward unity, justice, and freedom within an honest, national conception and sincere pan-Arab aspirations. The party will work to bridge the huge gap in the salaries of employees and to set a minimum level of salaries. It will work to support housing projects for the poor. It believes that every citizen has the right to a job and health insurance. It believes in the importance of the participation of all partners to production in drawing up the future image of the country's economy and in the participation of all peoples and their organizations in this. The government should be the arbiter and coordinator in this field within a free economy.

2. In Arab policy: The party believes that the liberation of the occupied Palestinian Arab territory can only be achieved by force because the logic of this age dictates that what has been seized by force can only be regained by force.

The party will seek to promote the national and religious spirit among individuals and groups in order to eliminate despair, fear, suspicion, and reluctance. It believes in the need to revive the unified Arab military leadership and to form a rapid deployment deterrence force to operate in threatened areas.

The party seeks to achieve economic integration within a studied unionist conception in order to achieve self-sufficiency and secure an independent Arab decisionmaking.

3. In international policy:

a. The party believes that reciprocal dealing based on international policies is the best way to maintain the legitimate rights of each country.

b. The party will work to achieve cooperation and a calm, fruitful dialogue with all states that believe in our legitimate rights, away from the policies of alignments and polarization. The party shows unreserved support for peoples' freedom and independence.

Ministry Denies Ambassador to Kuwait Detained

NC2708122890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, acting Foreign Ministry secretary general, has stated that reports by some local and international media about the detention of 'Adnan Badra, Lebanese ambassador to Kuwait, by the Iraqi authorities is untrue.

Ambassador Sutaytiyah pointed out that the information received by the Foreign Ministry this afternoon indicates that Ambassador Badra, Consul Faris 'Id, and some embassy officials left Baghdad for Beirut overland via Jordan and Syria today.

Fadlallah on Gulf Situation, U.S. Presence

NC2408115590 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the current tremor in the Gulf region is designed to bring the region to the brink of the abyss without letting it fall into it.

He expressed the belief that the U.S. presence in the region will continue for a long time. He said that Muslims may come to benefit from this presence, because Islam is the banner under which the people of the region can march in the opposite direction to that pursued by the Americans.

Comments on Arab Role in Gulf

NC2408191490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Regarding his stand on the Gulf issue, Al-'Allamah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that those who are ruling the Arab countries are employees of international intelligence services, especially American intelligence, which made the rulers' positions dependent upon their success in suppressing their peoples.

In a statement to REUTER, Fadlallah said that the Arab and Islamic forces that have been sent to Saudi Arabia are merely "decorations" for the American force or the western multinational force.

Fadlallah said that the recent situation created a kind of pride and a feeling of strength when the issue reached the present extent of challenge to the American force, irrespective of who the person is or what country it is.

Fadlallah emphasized that there is a kind of distribution of roles that could have come about by accident and not by agreement; it also could have stemmed from the nature of events. The Soviet Union has shaken Eastern Europe and has brought about a development. Meanwhile, the United States has done nothing in the American circle.

Groups Comment on Developments in Gulf Crisis

NC2708094690 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 24 Aug 90 p 3

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Dr. Marwan Faris, head of the political bureau of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party-the Higher Council, has said that "the U.S. and Western intervention in the Arab Gulf region is a blatant aggression against Arabs in all Arab countries," and expressed "the party's readiness to confront that aggression."

Dr. Faris said in a press interview yesterday that "Arab wealth belongs to all and not just the amirs, rulers, and kings installed by colonialism and backed by U.S. imperialism. The issue of redistributing Arab wealth among all Arabs, particularly the poor, is one that ought to have the support of all patriots, Arab nationalists, and progressive activists in all Arab countries. The time is right for the Arabs to free their wealth and assets from the grip of the capitalist and imperialist West. The Arabs should be able to enter the 21st century in dignity and with control over their resources and destiny." [passage omitted]

The "Association of Muslim Ulema in Lebanon" has criticized Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and said that "Saddam Husayn's action constitutes a conspiracy against the Arab people and their just causes." The association called on Saddam to withdraw Iraqi troops from Kuwait and stated that "the union of Kuwait with Iraq will destroy the Arab people." [passage omitted]

PSP Issues Statement on Economic, Gulf Crises

NC2708195290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Statement issued by the Progressive Socialist Party, PSP, Political Bureau following a meeting chaired by Walid Junblatt on 27 August]

[Text] 1. The political bureau discussed the worsening economic crisis and its grave consequences which are threatening to become a real famine and which might force the people to act in several directions and whose consequences no one could contain or tackle if it starts. Hence the political bureau reiterates its call for the adoption of the following steps:

a. To have the government declare a state of economic emergency and to adopt a policy of real austerity applicable to officials and public institutions, such as the chamber of deputies, the cabinet, the departments, and the ministries.

b. To review the budget approved by the chamber of deputies and to freeze all expenditures in the nonproductive sectors, particularly the military establishment and the foreign ministry among others, in return for devoting expenditures on the productive sectors and those that ensure social and health services for citizens.

c. To review the policy of the existing customs policy and to think seriously about adopting a single policy which

must be implemented immediately in all ports in order to prevent smuggling and to ensure financial income that would augment the state income.

d. To review the administrative position and to dismiss all employees and officials who have tied the hands of the Lebanese administration or impeded it or introduced a policy of kickbacks and futile and illegitimate spending.

e. To discard the illusion of counting on foreign aid without undertaking practical steps. Lebanese abroad, whether in the Gulf or in Africa, have undergone financial problems while the countries who could have extended aid are now involved in looking to their own crises and for those who could possibly help them.

2. On this occasion, if the ratification of the constitutional reforms as stipulated in the al-Ta'if accord is an inevitable step in the government's action, then we are content today with only asking this: Will these reforms bring in bread, fuel, and medicine to the Lebanese citizens so that these reforms can still be manipulated as a historic achievement in order to stay at a distance from the citizens' worries? Is not the economic crisis we see today a principal result of the free capitalist system which these reforms have entrenched?

3. Regarding developments in the Gulf, the political bureau discussed the recent Security Council resolutions which allow the use of force in one way or another. While stressing its firm condemnation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its wish that the dispute had remained within its Arab framework, which is the only way to deal with it, the political bureau asks: What has the Security Council, its stands and resolutions that call for the use of force done, for example, to get Israel out of Lebanon or to condemn direct U.S. intervention in Panama?

4. While reiterating its call to the Arabs to understand the dimensions and perils of the U.S. occupation of the region and the seizure of the Arab people's resources, the political bureau calls for overcoming the existing crisis through the minimum level of understanding in order to save these resources and wealth from loss and collapse and to make them the basis for building a common Arab market that would constitute an economic power for the Arab people which must benefit from them and from the just distribution of their wealth.

Junblatt on Gulf, Constitutional Amendments Bill

NC2408045890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] In a statement today, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Leader Walid Junblatt said: It may be fitting to make some remarks before the pro-al-Ta'if agreement people, in the name of reconciliation, the Constitution, reforms, and such rhetoric, prevent us from talking, and before the American instructions come from a battleship, an aircraft carrier, or an embassy.

Since the al-Ta'if agreement has become an indivisible part of joint Arab-American national efforts, let us begin with the Gulf and end at al-Najmah square.

In this respect, Junblatt said: How can we believe that Kuwait and the UAE had suddenly innundated the markets with oil until the price of a barrel of oil plummeted to $5—a matter which was the direct reason for the invasion of Kuwait? How can we believe that this occurred without foreign instructions, suggestions, or insinuations? How can we believe that the Iraqi forces, which were concentrated in preparation for the invasion, were spotted by the satellites and detected by the sophisticated monitoring equipment only a few hours before the invasion took place? How can we believe that the Kuwaiti Army did not resist and quickly resorted to a safe haven so that it might later wage a liberation war?

Junblatt added: How can we believe that the Arabs met so quickly and adopted delicate fateful resolutions when we, during the siege on Beirut, had to wait for them for weeks and months? How can we believe that the American pincer opens its jaws in the Holy Land in order to protect oil and, of course, to maintain stability, protect the friendly regimes, and because of other such expressions which Uncle Sam uses when he invades countries and supporters?

Junblatt went on to say: How can we believe that $200 billion or more of Kuwaiti, or rather, Arab funds, are frozen in or stolen from the western banks when these funds are the natural right of every Egyptian farmer and every Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, and other worker?

Junblatt wondered: Were not these funds, or some of them, sufficient to settle the debts of Egypt and Sudan or to be given to the Soviet Union as a gesture of gratitude during its current crisis, instead of being wasted on settling the cost of the new invasion? In whose name and in what name is America occupying the Arab area, and are the Arab people's funds being stolen under the pretext of Saddam's occupation of Kuwait? In my opinion, the western circles encouraged Saddam to occupy Kuwait, and he fell into the trap as he did in the past when he was made to believe in a lightning al-Qadisiyah [historic Arab-Persian battle]. Could not the auspicious Cairo summit come up with an Arab solution that did not involve western battleships and armies?

The PSP leader also wondered: In whose name and in what name does Egypt's pharaoh talk about his concern for the Arab fate? Is it because Egypt's shepherds have closed their eyes to the foxes, or is it to bury 'Abd al-Nasir anew? Are they not ashamed of themselves? Do they not remember the gigantic stand 'Abd al-Nasir's adopted in Ismailia when his laugh shook the world and when he nationalized the Suez Canal and the entire Arab world was jubilant? That was the proud stand that Egypt's [word indistinct] cannot forget

Junblatt said: In the recent past, Iraqi weapons came via the Suez Canal under American-Arab sponsorship to destroy Lebanon. Now battleships are transiting the Suez

Canal under American-Arab auspices and supervision in order to besiege Iraq and to destroy its army. What strange events these are, and what an Arab world this is. The poet was right when he said: This is a nation whose ignorance made other nations laugh.

In conclusion, Junblatt said: Finally, in whose name and in what name is a settlement [the constitutional amendments bill] approved—a settlement that outwardly appears to involve partial reform but that inwardly involves hegemony and consolidation of Israel's agents; a settlement that inherently involves suppression of the nationalists and free men to the extent of assassinating them? Junblatt said: It is true that talk may be useless. This statement is made only for history; it is a statement that must be made. The night is long, very long.

Sa'adah on Al-Ta'if, Constitutional Amendments

NC2008172190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Phalangist leader Minister George Sa'adah has emphasized that the al-Ta'if accord is more than mere constitutional amendments; it is a spirit, a document, and a mechanism. He explained that the accord was the outcome of an agreement on the structure of the government. Consequently, Dr. Sa'adah added, approval of the constitutional amendments must be the result of unanimous agreement.

Speaking at an expanded meeting of the Phalangist Party today, Sa'adah said: Setting a date for the parliamentary session under the present circumstances and in such haste has raised questions and created problems. Those responsible must provide convincing answers. He added: We prefer that the appropriate atmosphere be created for the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord by a state which would impose its authority in Greater Beirut at least, eliminate the political and military obstacles to achieving this goal, and end the state of rebellion against the legitimacy, lest it fall into the grip of anarchy and be at the mercy of the repercussions of international and regional changes on the internal situation.

Michel 'Awn Rejects Reforms, Says Victory Near

NC2308144290 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has called on the citizens to rebel and bring down the government of starvation which has caused the collapse of the Lebanese pound and squandered the national wealth.

Gen. 'Awn stressed that the end of al-Ta'if agreement and its architects is imminent and that victory is close at hand. He said: I am proud to be a rebel against a solution that would destroy Lebanon and to be at the head of the people rebelling against capitulation and submission.

In an interview with AL-ANWAR, the prime minister reiterated his non-recognition of the constitutional reforms of the al-Ta'if document, which aim to distract the Lebanese people's attention from the economic crime being perpetrated against them by the government of starvation. He added that the people will bring to account those who are responsible for starving them. He called on Dr. Salim al-Huss to bring his ministers to account for squandering the treasury funds and stealing the people's money. He reiterated his call to former deputies to return to their homes and their people so as to ascertain their views. He said: I will not sign a solution about which I am not convinced. He added that the al-Ta'if agreement does not express the Lebanese people's will, describing the Lebanese Forces militia as an armed tool for dealing a blow to the legitimate authority and the Lebanese Army, in collaboration with foreign forces, in order to implement the al-Ta'if agreement.

'Awn noted that he himself constituted an obstacle to the plot and that the call for his removal is a basic step in the smooth completion of the plot. He said: I am resisting the implementation of the plot and my remaining is a victory. He ruled out military action, saying that the Lebanese Army would not attack him because he is defending its dignity. He added that Syria should have no excuse to attack him because he does not threaten its security and does not cooperate with its enemies.

The prime minister assured the Lebanese that the difficult phase is now behind them. He said the more the people act against the fake regime represented by the Spinneys grouping [al-Huss government] the more they can save whatever is left of their wealth.

Nabih Birri Opposes Amendments, Al-Ta'if

NC2608101090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has warned against the continuing sectarian regime in Lebanon, noting: We must realize that we have not yet got rid of this regime. Therefore, Birri added, the battle should continue through democratic means to preserve Lebanon and improve the Lebanese situation.

Asked about the constitutional amendments, Birri said: I view the issue from the perspective of the al-Ta'if accord, and not from that of reforms. Lebanon cannot be divorced from its nationalism, he maintained.

In an interview with AL-RAYAH magazine, Minister Birri said: We supported the al-Ta'if accord only as a framework for Lebanon's unity, liberation, and Arabism. He pointed out that although the constitutional amendments contain articles that are more sectarian than the 1926 constitution, he nevertheless accepted the al-Ta'if accord as a framework for Lebanon's unity, Arabism, independence, and continued survival.

Minister Birri said that the Zionist danger threatening Lebanon is not confined to the borders. Israelis are inside Lebanon, not just in the so-called border strip, but also inside East Beirut and all over the country. Birri went on to say that the Israeli arm reaches everywhere in

Lebanon. This arm can also move the hands of others. He added: We accepted the al-Ta'if accord because of our concern for the homeland, and had it not been for fraternal Syria's support, we would not even have attained this incomplete and partial reform.

Minister Birri said: Lebanon has never been so threatened as it has been since the al-Ta'if accord. He described the al-Ta'if accord stage as one of divorce, disintegration, loss, and division. Birri pointed out that the constitutional amendments achieved nothing new, adding: We need complete and decisive amendments.

Amal Claims Attack on Israeli Position

NC2608111790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] The Amal Movement operations room in the south has said that, on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr, an Amal group attacked an enemy position near Jisr al-Hamra' in the western sector at 0900 today.

The movement issued a statement on the operation, which said that one of the enemy's troops was killed and another wounded during a fierce 15-minute clash. Ambulances were seen racing to the scene to remove the casualties.

Shortly afterward, the enemy raked nearby areas and al-Mansuri using heavy-caliber machine guns and artillery. One of the group's members was slightly wounded during the attack.

Explosion Kills Six in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2708080590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] According to security sources in the south, an explosion took place in a Toyota car traveling on the Humin al-Fawqah road in Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning. The six persons who were in the car were killed in the blast.

One Killed, Four Wounded in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2708165290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes continue to rage along the combat lines of Jarju' and Kafr Milki in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Meanwhile, an Amal Movement military source in the south said that one of the movement members was killed and four others wounded when Kafr Hatta and Tallat Hamadah came under fire from Hizballah positions in Kafr Fila at 0900 today. The source added that Hizballah gunmen bombarded Kafr Hatta this afternoon.

Lebanese Forces Foil Sinn al-Fil Attack 27 Aug

NC2708163490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces units checked an attack launched by pro-'Awn gunmen in Sinn al-Fil at 1745 today. Two gunmen of the attacking group were killed. Shortly after the abortive operation, pro-'Awn gunmen bombarded the Lebanese Forces' positions with flat-trajectory weapons and machine guns.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Forces' positions in al-Shuwaytar came under mortar fire at 1805.

Al-Asad, Al-Shar' Leave for Egypt 28 Aug

JN2808104190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad left Damascus today on a visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

His excellency the president is accompanied by a delegation including 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president; Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; and Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs.

Sirens Scheduled for Damascus Test 30 Aug

JN2708122490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Brother citizens, the Civil Defense General Directorate will test the electric warning sirens in the City of Damascus at 1100 on 30 August 1990 for three minutes nonstop. In case of a real warning, they will be sounded intermittently. All neighborhood mukhtars in the city of Damascus are urged to inform the Civil Defense General Directorate in case the sirens are not heard. They should contact telephone numbers: 444900, 444901, 444902, 444903.

Papers Cite 'Conspiracy,' Urges Arab Unity

JN2608075890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Exceptional Dangers the Arabs Have to Confront," the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms in its editorial today that the Arab nation is nowadays being put to a very difficult and cruel test, as it is being asked to work carefully and cautiously on various fronts.

The paper adds: We believe that the top priority must be to put the Arab house in order and at least to make it firm, even though we may fail to render it the strongest, under the current dangerous and ominous circumstances created by the complicated situation which has surfaced in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. If the current level of escalation is maintained, a certain catastrophe will befall the Arabs, all Arabs.

AL-BA'TH adds: Hence, the Arab handling of this situation which is interwined on both the regional and international scenes must, as leader al-Asad said during the Cairo summit deliberations, work to save the Arab nation and Iraq from danger, as it is unjustifiable for any reason to show indifference over this serious, most serious event in the history of the Arab nation, particularly that the impending danger poses a threat to all parties. Therefore, repeated and numerous attempts must be made to unify Arab efforts and ensure that Arabs do their utmost to resolve the crisis which resulted from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Iraq must respond favorably to the pan-Arab appeal made by leader al-Asad regarding the need to see Iraqi troops withdraw from Kuwait and to see the legitimate government there reinstated. This is the key to averting a destructive war, especially that numerous parties are seeking to explode the situation. Consequently, all outstanding problems between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti brothers must be settled within an Arab context. Certainly, if pan-Arab considerations are allowed to take precedence over other considerations, there is no doubt that all issues and problems will be resolved within their proper perspective. Thus, we would be able to save our Arab homeland, and specifically Iraq, from a grand, a very grand conspiracy.

In one of its commentaries the newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has pushed the Arab nation and its central issue, the Palestine question, into a dark tunnel whose end is hard to see. The paper adds: Observers find it difficult to predict the impact and dangers of this on the nation's existence and future. Once again, Iraq is dragging the nation to a side conflict, thus detaching itself from the crucial conflict, which is the Arab-Zionist conflict. The dangers posed by this new side conflict are more painful and bitter than those created by the previous conflict Iraq created with Iran. All this leaves us with no doubt that what awaits the nation is a catastrophe which we must hasten to avoid through the implementation of the Arab summit resolution which calls for an immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. This would be the prelude to defusing tension and resolving the crisis. Let us hope that the nation will address its central issue, the issue of its very existence.

The newspaper TISHRIN, in one of its commentaries today, deals with the resolution passed by the UN Security Council—the resolution which allows for the inspection of ships and the verification of their cargoes and destinations in the Gulf region as part of a plan to consolidate economic sanctions on Iraq within the framework of efforts to enforce the blockade more firmly.

In its commentary, the paper indicates that the resolution means that there is a possibility to use force. The paper adds: The only losers in this are Iraq and the Arab nation while the sole beneficiary is Israel and Zionism.

The paper concludes by saying: The Iraqi Government's determination to annex Kuwait would lead the region into a war whose losses and damage will exceed those incurred in the Iraq-Iran war. Had all of these capabilities been devoted to serving our fateful conflict with the Zionist enemy and to regaining our usurped rights and lands, all regional equations would have changed and Israel would have been cornered and its back against a wall.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Returns From Soviet Union 25 Aug

LD2508213890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Afghan President Najibullah, who had gone to the Soviet Union for medical checkups, returned to Kabul this afternoon after completing his medical checkups and meeting the soviet leaders. [passage omitted]

Decrees Ministry of Work

LD2608133990 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, 26 Aug BAKHTAR—The presidential office reports that a decree has been issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on ratification of the legislative decree of the Council of Ministers on formation of a Ministry of Work and Social Affairs. The text is as follows.

Based on the instructions of Article 104 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, I ratify legislative decree number 47, dated 30 July 1990, of the Council of Ministers on formation of the Ministry of Work and Social Affairs.

The Council of Ministers is duty-bound to present the aforementioned legislative decree to the first session of the Meli Shuraf [National Assembly] for approval.

This decree, together with the above-mentioned legislative decree, should be passed to the Ministry of Justice to be published in the official gazette.

[signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Sends Castro Gratitude Message

LD2708055790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug 26, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) has sent a message of gratitude to Havana addressed to Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and chairman of the Council State and of Ministers of Cuba in response to his congratulatory message has been received lately to Kabul on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the regaining of the independence of Afghanistan. [sentence as received]

The message while extending best wishes expresses confidence that the people of Afghanistan attaches high value to the continued and extensive solidairty existing between the parties, states and peoples of the two countries.

Sends Messages to DPRK, SRV

LD2808060890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0453 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 27, BAKHTAR—Najibullah president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) has sent messages of gratitude to Kim Il-Song, president of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea and [Vo Chi] Cong, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in response to their congratulatory messages earlier received here on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the regaining of the Afghan independence.

The messages while extending gratitudes express hope that the friendly relations and cooperations existing between the RA and DPRK and RA and SRV will further grow in the interest of the peoples of the two countries in future.

Deaths Cited in Qandahar Resistance Clashes

LD2508212790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Heavy clashes have taken place recently among the extremists group of Gulbuddin and his rival group in some parts of the district of Arghandab, Qandahar Province.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] military section reports that as a result of these clashes three persons from the hostile groups were killed and a large number of them were injured.

According to another report recently 'Abdul Salam, a ringleader of the extremists group of (Wahhabbi Sayaf) has been killed by he members of the extremists group of Gulbudin. The incident took place as a result of internecine clashes among them.

As a result of an explosion of a mine planted by the men of the extremists group of Gulbuddin on the route of a supply convoy belonging to the extremists group of (Wahhabi Sayaf), two persons were killed and two others were injured in some part of Qandahar Province.

According to a report by the BIA military section, as a result of explosion of this mine a tractor loaded with arms and ammunition was burnt completely and all its cargo was destroyed.

Nine Killed in Kabul Missile Attack 25 Aug

LD2508215290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Eight missiles were fired by extremists today, killing nine Kabul citizens and injuring 15 others.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that the injured were transferred to hospitals immediately and were taken in for serious medical treatment. Today's missiles were fired from west of Kabul and landed in the 4th and 5th wards of Kabul; they caused financial damage as well. The missiles were of the Sakr [as heard] type which

had been put generously at the disposal of the extremists by the United States, this so-called defender of the human rights, for the mass killing and terrorizing our Muslim people.

Bangladesh

Parliament Holds Special Discussion on Gulf Crisis

BK2508170490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] has ended a day-long special session on the Middle East, unanimously adopting a resolution endorsing the government decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia. The resolution by leader of the house Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed under Rule 294 of the Rules of Procedure tonight supported the decision of the government to respond positively to the request made by King Fahd to send a token contingent of troops to Saudi Arabia for its defense. It considered the step as a support to the cause of peace and stability of the area and the broader interest of Islamic Ummah.

The house expressed its deep concern at the Gulf situation following Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait and subsequent mounting of tension in the Gulf. It fully supported and endorsed the stand taken by Bangladesh on the question of withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government of the state. The house expressed its deep concern for the security and well-being of Bangladeshi nationals living in Kuwait and appreciated the steps taken by the government in this regard and for their repatriation to Bangladesh.

The Sangsad this morning began the special session to discuss the latest Middle East situation. Making a statement in the house, Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud reiterated Bangladesh's call for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restoration of the legal government there. Mr. Mahmud said the present situation in the region is fraught with danger and at any moment it may explode, leading to a widespread catastrophe affecting the whole world.

Despite Iraq being a friendly country, the foreign minister said, Bangladesh as a matter of principle cannot support the occupation of Kuwait. As a sovereign nation, Bangladesh has urged Iraq to quit Kuwait in the greater interest of the Muslim Ummah and global peace. Apprising the house about Saudi King Fahd's appeal to President Ershad to send a military contingent of Bangladesh to help defend holy places in the kingdom, the foreign minister said in view of our special relations with Saudi Arabia and many other religious and cultural considerations, Bangladesh responded to this appeal. He made it clear that Bangladeshi troops will be used for defensive purpose only. He said the current Gulf crisis has cast a gloomy impact on our political and economic (?fronts). In this connection, he referred to the constitution of a special committee under the chairmanship of Vice President Moudud Ahmed to work out ways and means to offset possible impact on our economy.

About the fate of Bangladeshis in Iraq and Kuwait, the foreign minister apprised the house about the government efforts to ensure their safety and quick repatriation. He said special flights of Bangladesh Biman have been operating to bring back those Bangladeshis who have fled from Kuwait and taken refuge in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Turkey.

Later, winding up the debate, leader of the house Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said the decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia is a political one. The prime minister said Bangladesh considered the Saudi request for sending troops with utmost caution. The worsening security situation and [word indistinct] growing division in the region were taken into account during the consideration. Besides, the situation of Muslim holy places—the Ka'ba Sharif and the Rauza Mubarak [holy tomb] of the holy prophet, sallallaho alaihe wasallam [may the blessing and mercy of God be upon him] in Saudi Arabia was also a factor in the decision process. Kazi Zafar said the decision was also a token symbol of support and regard of our country, nation, and the government of President Ershad to the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of all states, big or small.

Taking part in the discussion on the Middle East situation, leader of the opposition, A.S.M. Abdur Rab, said we cannot remain silent on the developments throughout the world centered on the crisis in the Middle East. He said the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq is deplorable at a time when East-West cold war is going to end. Mr. Rab suggested preparation of detailed statement of the economic loss suffered by Bangladesh due to the Gulf crisis and place it at the ensuing conference of the LDC's [less developed countries] and annual meeting of World Bank and IMF. Thirteen opposition members took part in the debate on the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Message Sent to UN Head For Repatriation Aid

BK2708164890 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Bangladesh is sending an urgent message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, seeking help in repatriation of its nationals trapped in Kuwait. This was stated by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud in Dhaka today. He said the bulk of foreigners in Kuwait are from developing and least developed countries and the enormity of their evacuation is as such that international assistance is necessary for this massive task.

Earlier, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said 298 people will reach Dhaka tomorrow from Amman in a chartered flight. He said the government is considering chartering a ship to bring Bangladeshis by sea from Jordan.

Promotion Bureau Reports Rise in Exports

BK2808010690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1715 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 27 (AFP)—Bangladesh registered a seven per cent rise in its exports during fiscal 1989-90, valued at 1.535 billion dollars, the official [Bangladesh] BSS news agency reported here Monday.

The agency, quoting the Export Promotion Bureau, said this was 100 million dollars more than the target set during the period that ended June 30. Dhaka exported goods worth 1.240 billion dollars during the previous fiscal year. Goods exported include garments, jute and jute products, leather and frozen food and tea.

India

Minister Asserts Missile Program To Continue

BK2808100890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, has said that no outside pressure will deter India from pursuing its missile system program. Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha today, he said the domestic flight test of Akash missile has been successfully carried out and all its mission objectives have been fully achieved. He said we are at present concentrating on its production, and its delivery to our defense services will start soon. Dr. Ramanna said medium-range surface-to-air Akash missile system having a range of 24 km will enhance our air defense capability.

Government Welcomes UN Efforts on Gulf Crisis

Offers To Help

BK2708162990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] India has welcomed the efforts made by the UN secretary general to find a peaceful solution to the current Gulf crisis. In reply to a query by newsmen in New Delhi, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that New Delhi will help in whatever way it can to bring peace to the Gulf. The government is in touch with the UN secretariat, he said. The UN secretary general, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, has sent his envoy to Baghdad for discussions with Iraqi authorities. India has also welcomed the efforts by the Austrian president, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, in bringing about a negotiated settlement to the crisis.

Outlines Gulf Evacuation Plans

BK2708163390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] The government has appealed to Indian nationals in Kuwait to remain calm and help in preparing a planned repatriation procedure for the evacuation. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the only route open now is from Amman, and therefore, Indian nationals cannot be repatriated from Basra. He advised the Indians in Kuwait to work out the priorities through their community leaders for their planned evacuation.

A series of alternate routes, including one via Iran, for repatriation of Indian nationals in Kuwait is also being considered as also using Indian Air Force transport planes, IL-76, and Air India flights directly to various destinations in India. The spokesman said the government is making efforts to get necessary clearance, including the permission for overflying from all concerned governments, including Pakistan.

Gujral Urges Nonmilitary Solution to Gulf Crisis

BK2708161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] India is of the view that a nonmilitary solution has to be found to the present Gulf crisis and the initiatives of the UN secretary general is welcome. Replying to the two-day discussion on the Gulf situation and its implications, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said the military buildup in the region is an ominous development and the situation is getting more and more difficult. India's attempt is to deescalate tension as its own vital interests are involved. He said India has always been close to Arab countries and wants them to remain united.

Referring to the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] initiative in finding a solution to the problem, Mr. Gujral said the Nonaligned Bureau in New York is having consultations and the issue will be discussed at the meeting of 15 nonaligned countries in Belgrade early next month.

Expressing concern over the safety of Indians in Kuwait, he said Air India is making four sorties everyday to bring back those who have reached Amman from Kuwait. He disclosed that about 10,000 Indians have reached Baghdad and the government is thinking of sending air force planes to fly them home. However, this requires route clearance from Iran. Mr. Gujral said the government will also be keen to send ships for transportation of Indians if it is possible.

Referring to the threat of food shortages in Kuwait, the external affairs minister said we are trying to persuade the countries engaged in blockade to allow shipment of food supplies and medicines for Indians under the banner of Red Cross or Red Crescent. He however clarified that India is adhering to the UN sanctions against Iraq and is of the view that Iraq's moving into Kuwait was unjustified.

Several members from both sides in the Lok Sabha today called for urgent initiative by the NAM to defuse the situation in the Gulf. Participating in the resumed debate on the statement by the external affairs minister,

Mr. I.K. Gujral, on his recent visit to Moscow, Washington, Amman, Baghdad and Kuwait, they demanded further steps by the government to ensure the safety and security of Indians in Kuwait and their repatriation.

Philippines' Manglapus Confers With Gujral

BK2508095890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] India and the Philippines have agreed to keep in touch with each other in dealing with the situation due to the crisis in the Gulf. The matter came up in an hour-long discussion between the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and the visiting foreign minister of the Philippines, Mr. Manglapus, in New Delhi yesterday. Both the leaders discussed the common interests of the two nations, as Philippines, too, has over 60,000 of its nationals in Kuwait like the large Indian population there.

Antireservation Agitation in Delhi Continues

Violence Develops

BK2708165290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] In Delhi, public transport was thrown out of gear and shops and business establishments remained closed in many areas following a bundh [strike] organized by some antireservation agitationists. Private vehicles however plied and essential services, including hospitals, water, and electricity supply, were not affected. Government offices and banks had normal work. Most of the private schools remained closed and government schools had a thin attendance. The situation was by and large peaceful. But the Delhi Police said the ongoing agitation has for the first time started taking a violent turn.

Suburban and long-distance train services were disrupted by the bundh. The interstate bus services from Delhi came to a halt. Our correspondent, who went round the capital, said demonstrators blocked traffic at various points causing inconvenience to commuters. Many office-goers were seen stranded at bus stops. Delhi Transport [Corporation] sources say that more than 200 of their buses were damaged. Several buses were hijacked and miscreants set on fire three vehicles, including a recovery van. While most of the city transport was off the road in the afternoon, some services resumed in the evening. The city police took several agitators into custody for violation of law. A group of demonstrators who were trying to approach the AIR and Doordarshan [All India Radio and television] building were dispersed by the police. All schools in Delhi will remain closed till the end of this week as a precautionary measure.

Premier Says Ready To Talk

BK2708165690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government is prepared to open a dialogue with the youth. Replying to clarifications sought by members in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said the decision to implement the Mandal Commission report has not been taken in haste. There is need for a political will to provide social justice to the oppressed and the downtrodden. The prime minister said the government shares the anxiety of the youth about their future, but the government jobs are not the real answer to the problem of unemployment. Topmost priority is being given during the Eighth Plan to enlarging employment opportunities. Mr. V.P. Singh admitted that there has been some injustice to the minorities. He said efforts will now be made consciously to rectify this. He also informed the house that reports of the Minority Commission will be placed before parliament.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, while welcoming the implementation of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission has said that the government should also bring forward an amendment to the constitution to provide reservation of jobs to the economically weaker sections of the society.

Bommai Appeals to Protesters

BK2808033690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has appealed to antireservationists to appreciate the implementation of the Mandal Commission report aimed at providing upward mobility to the socially depressed classes. He asked them to desist from adopting an agitational approach. In a statement in New Delhi, Mr. Bommai said it is necessary for the youth and students to show a generous appreciation toward socially depressed people whose children are yet to avail themselves of equal opportunities in various fields. The Janata Dal president also called upon the party workers to explain to the people in general and the students in particular the positive and progressive features of the Mandal Commission report.

The Congress-I has demanded an all-party meeting be held to discuss the Mandal Commission report before any final decision is taken. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said that there should have been an interaction between the political parties on this sensitive issue. He also criticized the prime minister for what he called the unilateral announcement on the reservation for the economically backward classes.

Pakistan Involvement in Kashmir Fighting Stressed

Official on Pakistan Training

BK2508003290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1729 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Jammu, India, Aug 24 (AFP)—Some 1,500 to 2,000 Moslem militants trained and armed by Pakistan are operating in northern India's Jammu and Kashmir state, a top state government official charged here

Friday. Jameel Qureshi said that the militants, who are fighting for the secession of Kashmir, were trained along with the mujahedeen guerrillas from Afghanistan in Pakistan by the Pakistani military.

Islamabad, which also claims Kashmir, has repeatedly rejected Indian accusations that it is arming and training Kashmiri militants. Mr. Qureshi said the Pakistani military's inter services intelligence unit had prepared a booklet for the militants containing detailed instructions on how to carry out guerrilla operations.

The booklet was found in the possession of arrested militants, Mr. Qureshi, an advisor to state governor Girish Saxena, told a press conference during a visit to Jammu, the state's winter capital. He said 1,500 to 2,000 Pakistani-trained were involved in the secessionist campaign in India's only Moslem-majority state, while an additional 5,000 more were waiting across the border in Pakistan to "sneak" into the state.

He denied Afghan resistance fighters had come to Kashmir to help the militants, but stated that the Kashmiri militants were trained alongside the Pakistan-based Mujahedeen. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since the subcontinent's 1947 partition and independence. Border tensions have been growing between India and Pakistan since Moslem militants stepped up their separatist campaign in Kashmir late last year. More than 1,500 people have been killed so far this year in Kashmir violence.

Pakistani Literature Seized

BK2508094690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces have seized documents and literature published by the Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan from the militants, confirming Pakistan's involvement in the subversive activities in the state. Addressing a press conference in Jammu yesterday, the governor's adviser, Mr. Jameel Qureshi, said some arrested militants have also confirmed that indulging in arson and leveling of wild allegations against Indian security forces is part of the training in subversive activities they have received in Pakistan. He said there is no fresh recruitment in the militant cadre in the state and we now have to deal with about 2,000 militants in the valley and an estimated 5,000 waiting to sneak in from across the border.

Militants Admit Pakistani Assistance

BK2608081590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, interrogation of top arrested militants has revealed that Pakistan is directly and fully involved in subversive activities in the state.

In an interview to AIR [All India Radio] Jammu correspondent, Ashok Handu, the governor's adviser, Mr. Jameel Qureishi, said that there is a sea change in the attitude of the people in the valley. This successes achieved by the security forces since January last have convinced even the militants about the futility of their efforts.

Killings, Arson, Bomb Blasts Occur in Kashmir

BK2608161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, five persons were killed in violent incidents since yesterday. According to a police spokesperson, two persons of a family were killed by terrorists in Kurhama village in Kupwara District yesterday. In downtown Srinagar, one Tariq Ahmad Sheikh, the area commander of the so-called Al-Omar, was killed in an encounter with the security forces at Wazapura yesterday. In Chatabal locality of Srinagar city, one person was killed in a cross firing incident today. In Anantnag District, the bullet-ridden body of an assistant executive engineer, Mr. B.L. Khakh, was found near Nathpura bridge. In Kupwara District, terrorists today fired three rockets at Town Hall building in Handwara, causing damage to the Hall. Reports of bomb blasts and arson have also come in from different parts of the valley.

Curfew was relaxed for 13 hours from 0530 [0000 GMT] in Srinagar city today. There was no day curfew in any part of the valley. In Jammu, the night curfew is being lifted from today.

Court To Probe Alleged Kashmir Police Excesses

BK2808050890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a special court has been set up to probe all cases of alleged police excesses. The court will comprise an inspector general of police and two deputy inspectors general of police. The director general of the state police, Mr. J.N. Saxena, told newsmen in Srinagar yesterday that security forces have been instructed to exercise maximum restraint in dealing with law and order in the Kashmir Valley. He said four policemen, including a deputy superintendent of police, have been suspended in connection with the incidents of firing on the mourners of Mir Waiz Maulvi Mohammad Farooq on the 21st of May in Srinagar.

The director general of police disclosed that security forces have recovered since January this year 540 AK-47 rifles, 30 light machine guns, 500 pistols and revolvers, 50 antipersonnel mines, 100 antitank mines, 100 rocket launchers, 4,000 grenades, and about 100,000 rounds of ammunition.

Meanwhile, five persons, including a former MLA [member of legislative assembly], were killed in terrorist-related incidents in the Kashmir Valley yesterday. A National Conference leader and former MLA, Mr. Nazir Ahmad Nelora; and the Janata Dal leader, Mr. Gulshan Kaveri, were fired at and injured while they were returning to Nelora Village in Pulwama District.

Government Concerned Over Sri Lankan Hostilities

Ministry Condemns Jaffna Bombing

BK2408161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] India has again voiced its concern over the large-scale killing of civilians in indiscriminate aerial bombing by the Sri Lankan Air Force on heavily populated areas of Jaffna. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen this evening that New Delhi is deeply anguished over the aerial attacks which reportedly claimed a large number of lives today also. He said New Delhi once again appeals to the two sides to cease hostilities and resume talks on finding a political solution to the issue. India is of the view that there is no military solution to the problem and only a political settlement meeting the Tamils aspiration within a united Sri Lanka can resolve the issue, the spokesman added.

Premier Urges Negotiations

BK2708131490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has appealed for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Sri Lanka and return to negotiations. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said a durable solution to the ethnic conflict cannot be found by military means or violence. It can be found only through a dialogue permitting the legitimate Tamil aspirations and concerns within the framework of Sri Lanka's unity and integrity.

Expressing deep concern over the sharp escalation of conflict in Sri Lanka over the past few days, Mr. Singh said there are also reports of indiscriminate attacks on heavily populated civilian areas. This has caused civilian casualties and rendered thousands homeless. Besides, the flow of refugees from Sri Lanka into Tamil Nadu has increased, placing a heavy burden on India. The prime minister said the government and people of Tamil Nadu have done a commendable job in providing shelter to the refugees. [Words indistinct] steps must be taken by the Sri Lankan Government to stem the inflow of refugees, he said.

Iran

Velayati Meets PNA's Al-Sa'ih 27 Aug

LD2708175490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, chairman of the Palestine National Assembly [PNA], and the delegation accompanying him today met Mr. Velayati, Iran's foreign minister. According to the central news unit, the chairman of the PNA congratulated the Islamic Republic' for its victory, the release of the POWs, and the withdrawal of forces to behind international boundaries. He added: The world of Islam must now stand as a united hand opposite the plotys of East and West, and we appreciate the steadfast stand of the Islamic Republic in the face of the plots hatched by global arrogance.

During the meeting, Mr. Velayati also termed Iran as the home for all Palestinian strugglers and freedom-loving persons. Explaining that the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward Palestine is clear, he said: The issue of the liberation of Palestine is among our essential and strategic issues and we hope that, God willing, Palestine's territory will be liberated by the offspring of Palestine and other Muslims of the world.

Our country's foreign minister said with regard to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf: We cannot accept the occupation of Kuwait; we also reject the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region, whatever the excuse, since the military presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf is not a solution to the problems and is increasing tension in the region.

Velayati Receives Message From Pakistani Envoy

LD2608165790 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA—Pakistani Ambassador in Tehran Shemshad Ahmad conveyed a message from Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

Ahmed also briefed Velayati on the outcome of Yaqub Khan's visit to Arab states of the Persian Gulf, and called for frequent exchange of views between Tehran-Islamabad officials in the wake of regional developments. Velayati referring to the grave developments in the region, welcomed regular meetings between officials of the two neighbouring countries.

Pakistanis Flee Kuwait, Cross Iranian Borders

LD2608174290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Two hundred and thirty Pakistani residents of Kuwait entered Iranian territory via the border at Seru [placename as heard] in 64 vehicles. According to the Central News Unit, this party expressed appreciation and thanked the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the facilities placed at their disposal on arrival. This report also states that up to now 3,000 Pakistanis resident in Kuwait have entered Iran via the Bazargan border.

Over 100 Foreign Nationals Arrive From Kuwait

LD2708141290 Tehran IRNA in English 1334 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 27, IRNA—More than 100 nationals of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan arrived in Iran from Kuwait through the southern Shalamcheh border region Sunday afternoon.

The number of the foreign nationals arriving in Iran is increasing, while only a few Iranians returned home

from Kuwait Sunday. So far more than 50,000 Iranians residing in Kuwait have returned home since the occupation of the tiny sheikhdom by Iraq early in August.

A Bangladeshi national who arrived in Iran today told IRNA that 80 trucks are carrying foreign nations from Kuwait to Iran. He said the trucks have been stopped at the Iraqi port of Basra for passports to be checked by the Iraqi forces.

Va'ezi Discusses Gulf Crisis With Foreign Envoys

LD2108090990 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 21, IRNA—A number of ambassadors of Latin American and East Europen countries to Tehran met separately with Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi here on Monday and Tuesday.

The latest developments in Kuwait and the Persian Gulf region were the main points of Va'ezi's talks with the ambassadors.

Velayati, Omani Counterpart Discuss Gulf Issues

LD1508083190 Tehran IRNA in English 0540 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-Alawi Bin-'Abdallah and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting here Tuesday night discussed the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region and bilateral relations.

The Omani minister arrived here Tuesday evening on a one-day visit. He was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart.

Omani Minister Departs

LD1508135390 Tehran IRNA in English 1202 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-Alawi Bin-'Abdallah left this afternoon for Muscat after holding talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, last night. Bin-Alawi, who arrived here Tuesday evening, exchanged views on the recent developments in the Persian Gulf region and other issues of mutual interest.

Before leaving Tehran, the Omani official called on President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and discussed the latest developments in the Persian Gulf crisis. He also presented to the Iranian president a message from Oman's head of state Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

Ministry To Publish Letters Exchanged With Iraq

LD2708172690 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 27, IRNA—Letters exchanged between the Iranian and Iraqi presidents will be published by the Political and International Studies Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, it was announced here today.

Deputy head of the Bureau 'Ali Qaderi disclosed that Saddam Husayn had sent six formal letters and several short notes to Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who replied to three of them. All letters exchanged so far will be published with a preface and an appendix "for the information of the Iranian people," Qaderi said.

POW Exchange To Continue to 'Last Person'

LD2708121990 Tehran IRNA in English 1137 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—Iran and Iraq have agreed to continue swapping war prisoners to the last person, Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi said here Monday.

Sarmadi said the agreement came after negotiations between Deputy Foreign Minister for international affairs Manuchehr Mottaki and his Iraqi counterpart al-Zahawi at Khosravi border post, western Iran, Sunday.

An expert committee comprising representatives of both countries and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] is set up to ensure that the procedure is carried out properly.

The spokesman also quoted al-Zahawi as saying that taking down the names of the unregistered POWs will start simultaneously with the exchange of POWs, a move which will require additional work thus reducing the number of POWs to be exchanged.

Following the registration of POWs Iraq and the ICRC are to release 1,000 Iranian POWs per day starting Tuesday, Sarmadi said.

Talks Continue on Registering Unlisted POW's

LD2708100290 Tehran IRNA in English 0827 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry official is currently negotiating with Iraqi officials in the western border region on registration of those Iranian POWs whose names have not so far been taken down by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Mottaki has been conducting the negotiations since Sunday, it was reported Monday. Simultaneously, the names of the incoming freed POWs are being checked with the ICRC list of the registered POWs.

Further POW's Return; Welcomed by Yazdi

LD2708100490 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—700 more freed Iranian POWs arrived home through Iraqi Manzariyeh border point and Mehrabad international airport Sunday night. Iran and Iraq exchanged 500 POWs each through Manzariyeh opposite Iran's Khosrawi border point Sunday night.

The homecoming POWs were welcomed by a group of military commanders and combatants stationed in the border area. Meanwhile, two airplanes carrying 200 freed Iranian POWs directly from Baghdad, landed at Mehrabad Airport. Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi and other senior officials welcomed the freed POWs.

The arrival of the new groups brought the total number of POWs exchanged between Iran and Iraq since august 17 to 31,200. Exchange of POWs was among Iran's conditions for peace with Iraq which Baghdad accepted on August 15.

Yazdi Cables Khamene'i on Government Week

LD2508120190 Tehran Domestic Service Persian 1030 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Excerpts] On the occasion of Government Week, Judiciary Chief Yazdi sent a cable to His Extreme Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, expressing congratulations to the leader and the great, noble and resisting nation of Iran on the anniversary of the Hashemi-Rafsanjani government's first week. [passage omitted]

The cable refers to the esteemed leader's policymaking on various domestic and foreign issues, particularly under the present extraordinary circumstance in the regional situation with the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf and the occupation of Kuwait. It reads: Thank God this Muslim-suffering martyr-nurturing nation has a sympathetic leader and administrators who always consider God almighty and wish for prosperity, good health, and comfort for God's subjects and stop at nothing in this aim.

Yazdi Comments on Nigerian Judicial Visit

NC2608085390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] The Nigerian chief justice, who led a judicial delegation which visited Tehran, left this morning and was officially seen off by Mr. Yazdi, head of the judiciary.

Before leaving Tehran, the Nigerian official signed a memorandum of understanding with Iran on judiciary affairs. Speaking to correspondents, he described his visit to Iran as successful and pointed out: Two very interesting points which we noted during this visit were that the judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran conforms with Islamic laws and that human rights are fully observed in Iran.

In response to our correspondent's questions on the outcome of this visit, Mr. Yazdi said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Even though he came here as the head of the Nigerian judiciary and spent most of his time with our country's judicial officials, in view of the conditions prevailing in Nigeria and our general conditions, he also had meetings with other officials, including the honorable president.

I think that this visit was a comprehensive one which was important in terms of political issues and relations between the two countries as well as in terms of judicial issues.

As he himself stated, the objective behind this visit was to become better acquainted with the Islamic Republic's judicial system. Relatively comprehensive discussions were held on this topic during the meetings. As he himself has stated, he was satisfied with the discussions. In other words, he received a general picture of the Islamic judicial system which is being implemented and observed in our country today.

Thus, I think that this was a fruitful visit from both the political and judicial aspects, even though it was mostly concerned with the judicial side. [end recording]

Majlis To Debate Bill on War Risk Insurance

LD2008150890 Tehran IRNA in English 1341 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA—The cabinet Monday approved a motion to issue "war risk" insurance policies by Iran insurance company authorizing it to insure all vessels and crew members of vessels belonging to government and government-affiliated agencies.

The cabinet also approved a motion for allocation of 47 billion rials (dlrs 671.428 mn) to be expended on various welfare services for homecoming war prisoners. The motion is to be presented to the Majlis for debate which is to resume Tuesday after a month-long summer recess.

Later in the session, Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari said that since March 21 some 1.841 tons of wheat has been purchased from local farmers, up by 32,000 tons compared to that bought in 1988, and the highest purchase of that staple crop from local growers by the government in recent years.

Editorial Views Iraqi Minister's Scheduled Visit

LD2808082490 Tehran IRNA in English 0723 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—The proposed imminent visit to Tehran of the Iraqi foreign minister is solely related to the peace process between Iran and Iraq and in no way has anything to do with Kuwaiti issue, said the editorial in 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Tuesday. It wrote that Iran in its correspondence with Iraq before the August 15 Iraqi acceptance of Iran's terms for peace, had

made the visit conditional to the Iraqi acceptance of Iran's terms including withdrawal of Iraqi forces to international borders, exchange of POWs and endorsement of the 1975 accord.

Having met Iran's conditions, added the editorial, "Iraq is calling on the Islamic Republic to agree with the visit in order to settle the existing disputes between the two countries." "Perhaps some intend to attach the visit to other regional issues. But, they will not succeed in doing so and any futile effort to be initiated in this connection is doomed to fail."

The editorial underlined that Iran's stance vis-a-vis the regional issues are clear. The Islamic Republic's statesmen have condemned the Iraqi military aggression on Kuwait and called for unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, it said.

"The Islamic Republic's stand vis-a-vis the U.S. military aggression against the (Persian Gulf) region and the military presence of the U.S. and NATO armies in the region is also crystal clear," the editorial stressed. "Such a situation cannot be tolerated and is totally rejected by the Iranian authorities," concluded the daily.

Paper Condemns Slowdown in POW Exchange

LD2708095890 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI-E ESLAMI' in its editorial Monday questioned the reason for the sudden decline in number of the exchanged POWs stating that it will be "detrimental to Iraq."

It blamed the decline in the number of the POWs which said became evident on Sunday, on Iraq. "The move could pose a danger on the acceptable and logical trend of the past days. This is not in the interest of either side and is more detrimental to Iraq than to Iran," said the daily. "It is not yet clear what the Iraqi Government is pursuing through this move," asked the editorial.

Turning to the stance adopted by Iraq's neighbours and the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms, the paper asked whether under this circumstance the Iraqi statesmen see such hamperings in their interest. Throughout all stages of peace talks the Islamic Republic of Iran has proved its goodwill and respect to international laws and regulations, it said. "Iran, once again by condemning the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait proved that under all conditions and circumstances stands by its principles and even the most vital interests cannot dissuade it from respecting its principles," stressed JOMHURI-E ESLAMI.

Therefore, the question that remains is, what is Iraq after? asked the paper adding that in fact there is no answer to it. However, it added that undoubtedly continuation of exchange of POWs-both registered and unregistered, is in the interest of both Iran and Iraq and unabated following up of other terms for establishment of a lasting peace "will be to the advantage of Iran and Iraq and disadvantage of the ill-wishers." "Iraqi statesmen should not hesitate in the right path they have chosen in dealing with this issue," concluded the paper.

Clandestine Radio Demands Iraq Pay Reparations

NC1808160090 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Informed sources [words indistinct] yesterday revealed that numerous consultations and meetings have taken place between officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq in the two weeks since the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. On 8 August—six days after Iraq's aggression against Kuwait—officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran gave a positive response to the forging of relations with Iraq.

According to international news agencies, following the divulging of the contents of Saddam's letter to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that this was the greatest victory of the Islamic Republic since its inception. The DAILY TELEGRAPH, published in London, cited Iranian officials as saying: We are entering an era of prolonged peace and justice in our ties with Iraq.

In an attempt to deceive the people, the Iranian regime's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, termed Saddam's Husayn proposal to withdraw his forces to internationally recognized borders the greatest victory ofthe Islamic Republic in its history. However, Velayati did not mention what he and his cohorts in the regime had done to achieve this victory. Victory is not easy to attain. It is only attained when a country is (?victorious in battle) against an aggressive enemy. Only then can it claim to have attained a real victory.

The Islamic Republic of Iran suffered a defeat in its war with Iraq, as the late Khomeyni himself acknowledged toward the end of his disgraceful life. Otherwise, Khomeyni would never have said that accepting the cease-fire was like drinking from a poisoned chalice.

The Islamic Republic's regime suffered a defeat in the war against Iraq; otherwise, Iraq would not have occupied more than 2,200 km of our territory. Now that Iraq, because of other considerations, has retracted its previous stance and is acceding to our wishes, one has to be entirely without shame to claim that this is the greatest victory in the history of the Islamic Republic!

We would like to ask the Islamic Republic's foreign minister how one claim that we have been victorious and [words indistinct] a peace accord in a war against the enemy. Have we received reparations for the blood of hundreds of thousands of our brothers and sisters and the enormous devastation suffered by our country?

Has the regime of the Islamic Republic demanded reparations from Iraq? Have you, the representatives of the defeated Velayat-e Faqih regime, discussed the issue of reparations in your covert and overt negotiations with

the Iraqi side, now that you are beating the drums of (?shamelessness) and claiming victory?

If it is true that you have been victorious, for once show some consistency in your life, tell the people the plain truth, and demand that Iraq pay reparations for the losses it inflicted on Iran.

Editorial Seeks Goodwill on Hostage Release

NC2708143590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Goodwill Slow To Come From U.S. as Hostages Freed"]

[Text] A source well-informed on Lebanese affairs says that within the next few days another Swiss hostage will be released after the release on August 9 of Swiss relief worker Emanuel Christen by Palestinian combatant groups after ten months in captivity.

Even though the news of release of the first Swiss hostage was overshadowed by news about Kuwait, political observers of Lebanon's affairs considered it important.

After the release of two U.S. hostages through the Islamic Republic's mediation last April 9 the region was waiting for a mutual gesture of goodwill by the United States. The Americans should have exerted pressure on Israel and the Phalangists to release hundreds of Muslim hostages and prisoners held by them. But Washington preferred to deal with the issue in the same way as it did its policy of the past few years, i.e. with pride. The United States considered this show of goodwill as a sign of weakness of the hostage-taking groups and the governments who mediated in the affair. Also, Israel in the past few years has shown that whenever a serious solution to the hostage crisis seems in sight it tries to sabotage it because it doesn't consider this in its short-term political interests. The continued aggression on southern Lebanon after release of every hostage was an example of this.

But this time the situation of European hostages can be different provided that leaders of European governments who have hostages in Lebanon stop following U.S. policy in solving this Middle East problem. For instance, they can consider the release of the Swiss hostages as a serious gesture of goodwill. In fact it is a joint gesture of goodwill by groups holding the hostages as well as governments that have some infulence over them and have mediated purely on humanitarian grounds. But if the Europeans consider it as a sign of weakness, then their analysis would be very wrong because for groups holding the hostages it is very easy to take care of their hostages and keep them in captivity.

Therefore, Lebanese groups and governments who have mediated in this affair by using their spiritual influence are awaiting a response to their show of goodwill. If the European governments avoid a show of pride in their response, the Irish hostage will be the next candidate for release and this would take place in a not too distant future, informed observers believe.

Commentary, Editorials View Situation in Gulf

Return to Status Quo Urged

LD1108134490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Good day, dear listeners. The emergency Arab summit meeting to discuss the crisis of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait ended its work last night without being able to achieve a practical result. [passage omitted]

Despite the decisive position adopted in the statement of the Arab summit against the Iraqi military aggression, in the view of experts, the said summit must be regarded as a major defeat for the Union of Arab States [etehadiyeh keshvar-haye arab] and a victory for the United States. The experts believe that the said statement lacks practical value, because from among 20 participants at the summit only 12 countries voted in favor of the final statement, while the remaining eight countries voted negatively or abstained.

Decisions of the Arab summit have executive value only when adopted unanimously. Iraq has thus branded the decision of the Arab summit a reflection of the will of the United States; it has criticized the countries that voted in favor of it. In contrast, the U.S. State Department expressed its satisfaction with the results of the Arab summit.

The positions adopted by the Arab summit—which failed to find a political solution for the present crisis—support the so-called defensive measures that have been adopted by Saudi Arabia, comprising of the stationing of U.S. forces in the territory of that country. As such it is regarded as an Arabic green light for U.S. militry interference to crush Iraq. Such an Arabic green light is tantamount to the defeat of all Arab solutions for putting a peaceful end to the crisis of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. In the near future the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council will probably also meet to make more intensive preparations for a military confrontation with Iraq.

Against such a background, Iraq will insist on implementing its own project based on the full annexation of Kuwait to Iraqi territory. Thus while making the situation even more complicated, it will close the doors, one after the other, to political solutions to the crisis. [passage omitted]

As political solutions are being abandoned one after the other, in the view of some political circles the U.S. will not embark on military action until the economic and political blockade of Iraq bears fruit and creates a domestic crisis in Iraq. At the same time, the climatic conditions and the intense heat of Arabia will delay any military action until the change in weather conditions. The experts therefore believe a speedy military action to

be unlikely; they also believe that if such an action were taken it would be ineffectual.

That is why the scattered military moves by the United States and some countries of the region are said to be aimed at preventing an Iraqi initiative in mouonting a preventive attack against the Arabian oil installations. Aware of the United States's inability to mount a speedy military attack, and also feeling that time is not on Iraq's side, Iraq has, in the framework of psychological warfare, talked of the need to mobilize the world of Arabs against the presence of Western forces as well as the dependent regimes, especially the Saudi regime. Also, by holding on to such elements as the informal confinement of a large number of foreign nationals, Iraq is trying to preempt a U.S. attack on Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Experts believe that massive military moves by the U.S. and Western countries, which after the statement of the Arab summit may entail participation by some Arabic countries as well as Turkey, will not have speedy and decisive results at present, because the mobilization of a massive military force capable of bringing about changes in the status quo—which means forcing Iraqi forces to go beyond international frontiers—needs a long time. Though such a fact can be worrying for Western countries, it may yet give them a pretext to increase their interference in the region. Therefore the regional countries, including Iraq, must know that an invitation to foreign forces, or any act which gives them a pretext to interfere, will eventually serve the interests of the foreigners only.

From that point of view, and as it respects international principles and laws, the Islamic Republic of Iran demands the speedy and unconditional withdrawal by Iraq from all Kuwaiti territory, so that with the departure of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf once again stability and security might be restored to the region.

U.S. 'Intruders' Criticized

LD2008151190 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA—An afternoon Persian daily Monday lashed out at Saudi Arabia for paving the way for the military presence of American forces in Islam's holiest lands.

ETTELA'AT, in its editorial titled "Big Disgrace", branded the gathering of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia "a dark stain, which cannot be washed away even with the waters of Zamzan or Kawther (pool in paradise)."

The long-record of Wahhabi [Saudi] treason against Muslims is open to all, it said, recalling the house of Sa'ud's "generous military and financial support to Iraq in its eight-year war against the Islamic Republic."

What has now befallen Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other reactionary Arab states said the daily, "is a retribution for part of their past sins."

It sighed that "Arabia, the land of divine revelation where the first Islamic movement took roots has sadly been turned into an arena for American swashbucklers."

It is a real disgrace for the Saudi rulers that American intruders have spread out over the vastness of Arabia and are acting beyond the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council, the article said.

"Even more disgraceful", it noted, "is the fact that the supreme commander of these forces is not the self-styled custodian of the holy places (Saudi king) but rather the U.S. President."

U.S. Military Buildup 'Denounced'

LD2608101990 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA—Two morning dailies Sunday denounced the U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf region which "aims to plunder the regional states rather than repelling the aggression."

In an editorial, 'ABRAR' also condemned Saudi Arabia for being a culprit in the U.S. plot against the regional nations and reiterated that Riyadh would be the first victim of the U.S. conspiracy. The article noted that the U.N. Security Council's move on Saturday which authorized use of force in order to halt shipping to and from Iraq, 'opened a new chapter in the Persian Gulf crisis."

Ratification of such a resolution, the daily noted, while further presses Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, paves the way for the U.S. to hold control of navigation in this vital oil-rich region. This, in turn will embolden Saudi Arabia to act contrary to the will of the OPEC members and flood the oil market with oil under the military support of the U.S. fleet, wrote the editorial.

If this happens, the article stressed, increased oil output will deal a heavy blow only on the OPEC member states. "The Persian Gulf crisis, before being a political crisis, is an economic one and the U.S. and the West are trying to abuse it in order to pass safely through the risky 1990 decade," commented the daily.

Meanwhile, 'JOMHURI ESLAMI' lashed out at Saudi court ulema for making statements in support of the U.S. military presence in their holy land. It pointed to the statements of Sheikh Abdulazziz, a court mufti, who had justified the U.S. expedition to Saudi Arabia as a measure to defend holy places in his country. The daily called on the world Muslim ulema to take measures to safeguard Islam rather than protecting "the throne of root causes of the corruption."

The daily stressed that neither such a treason nor such a treacherous justification can be further tolerated by Muslims. It said that religious and humanitarian responsibilities of Muslim nations will ultimately compel them to oppose such a treason by first putting an end to the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia.

U.S. Accused of 'Sinister Plot'

NC2708163290 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Aug 90 p 6

[Commentary: "U.S. Disillusioned"]

[Excerpts] Notwithstanding the United States' unlawful presence in southeast Asia and elsewhere in the past, if it had not invaded Panama in December last year and brought total devastation to that tiny state perhaps the world would have had a sympathetic ear to what it has to say on Iraq's aggression against its small neighbor.

The havoc brought upon the Panamanians by the U.S. troops stands no comparison to what the Iraqi forces did in Kuwait. The official death toll of the invasion of Panama was estimated at 655, although unofficial estimates place the number between 2,000 and 4,000. Moreover, the way the Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega was humiliated was an unprecedented event in the contemporary history of the civilized nations. Maybe the barbarians like the Mongols or similar uncivilized tribes treated their natives more humanly than what the Americans did with Noriega.

The claims made by the U.S. Administration that what it did in Panama was for the sake of democracy was as ridiculous as its assertions that it is sending troops to the Persian Gulf region for restoring the independence of Kuwait.

Right now there are 60,000 U.S. troops in the region. There are 45 warships in or en route to the Persian Gulf. At least 100 F-15 fighters and 48 F-16 ground attack jets already in Saudi Arabia are supplemented with plus some 300 warplanes with the carrier groups. [sentence as published] U.S. Defense Department officials say at least 50,000 more troops are being shipped or flown to the Persian Gulf.

All this military buildup is going on despite Iraq's repeated announcements that it will not attack Saudi Arabia. Actually Saddam Husayn and King Fahd have signed a non-aggression pact in November last year.

Riyadh as well as Washington are fully aware that what happened in Kuwait is not going to occur in any other part of the region. The U.S. under this pretext is implementing some other sinister plot. It just wants to take its direct control.

The U.S. statesmen disillusioned by the end of the so-called cold war and aware of the truth that NATO has already become an obsolete institution thought it fit to grab something which could be used by them against a united Europe which naturally will see no reason in future to remain obedient to Washington. So the U.S. thought it wise to capture the oil wells of Saudi Arabia.

One wonders why the European countries are collaborating with the U.S. Perhaps at present they have no other choice. France has sent a token force of 3,500 men aboard four warships and an aircraft carrier, Clemenceau, and two support ships. Netherlands, Belgium, West Germany, the Soviet Union have also participated on a smaller scale.

Britain though aware of the fact that the Cambridge educated Benazir Bhutto's removal from office in a haphazard way on August 7 was not unrelated to the present crisis has no other alternative than to obey Washington. [passage omitted]

On the other hand Iraq is showing no fear whatsoever. Maybe it knows that the U.S. is in the region just to be in charge of the oil wells. However, Saddam Husayn thought it necessary to warn the U.S. In an open letter read on Baghdad television on Thursday he said: "We pray to God that the two sides will not clash, because if they do thousands of Americans whom you have pushed into the dark tunnel will go home in shrouded coffins."

An Iraqi daily, AL-JUMHURIYAH echoed Saddam's threats more specifically. "Nothing will remain of their (the American soldiers) bodies to be shrouded in flags", it said.

Saddam's appeal to all Arabs for holy war against foreign troops will not fall on deaf ears.

The ruling Ba'th Party's newspaper AL-THAWRAH is not wrong when it writes that President Saddam Husayn's call for holy war would echo through the Arab world. "The call to holy war will echo in all Arab cities and turn into a huge flood to topple all the small agents and wash away occupation forces that defile Mecca and the tomb of the Prophet," it said.

And the daily rightly says: "King Fahd will not be able to oust the Invading forces. This is because he has committed high treason by opening the doors for them, realizing the old dream of American imperialism to occupy oil sources to consecrate its hegemony over world economy."

It goes without saying that America will not find it easy to remain for a long time in the area. As it is it has lost three Americans in Hejaz—all died mysteriously. Shortly the U.S. will become more disillusioned.

Regional Cooperation Sought

NC2708174290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Popular Base: Best Solution to Problems of Insecurity"]

[Text] President Rafsanjani recently, while condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, said the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf has inflamed the whole region like a big powder keg. Expressing his anxiety over the region's future the president also underscored the Islamic Republic's strategic weight in ensuring the security in this part of the globe.

Recent world developments, that have drastically changed the scene of international politics have somehow contributed to the emerging of a single-pole world in a near future. Amidst this a closer tie between

and among Muslim nations seemed, and still seems a most pressing need in order to carve out for themselves a better foothold in future dealings and establish a juster relationship with the West ending the very unjust approaches of the West to these countries.

Now given their vast energy resources (that are much needed by the industrialized countries) the Persian Gulf states have a special significance. The economic conditions of these countries give them the potential to lay the foundation of all sorts of alliances and moves of unity in the Islamic sphere.

Now in this highly sensitive situation there crashed out of the blue the Iraqi juggernaut rolling over the tiny Emirate of Kuwait early this month. By the amazingly bold and irrational move Iraq not only engulfed the whole region in a very intense crisis. It also allowed expansionist powers to move into the region with their huge firepower under the pretext of the military incapability of national governments under the duress of Iraqi threats.

The world public opinion and some Muslim countries too are now regarding the foreign forces' deployment in the region in some favorable light, regarding it as an inevitable development.

But the foreign expeditions will in future prove to be fraught with various adverse and national cultural consequences at the regional level.

Once united in a true sense of understanding common interests, the countries in this part of the world are certainly capable of ensuring their security and stability for themselves as well as for the region collectively. The presence of foreign fleets and firepower in the region will only further complicate the related issues.

The Islamic Republic for its part while unequivocally condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, along with some regional nations and complying with the Muslim public opinion, also rejects the idea of begging the Western forces (who can never be void of ulterior motives) to provide security for the regional nations.

It is hoped now that with all these bitter experiences of foreign meddlings and regional bullies behind, the Arab leaders in this region awake to realities and come to their senses. They must truly endeavor to strengthen the popular base of their governments. At the same time collective security pacts that include countries, which, in terms of population, military power and area, can greatly contribute to regional security also offer good solutions to the problems of insecurity.

Stand on Kuwait Occupation Viewed

NC2708174890 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Looking Both Ways in Approach to Persian Gulf Crisis"]

[Text] The pace of events in this region is proceeding at a very breakthaking pace these days. The tour to the U.S. by King Husayn of Jordan has ended in no apparent result and he has failed playing his much cherished role as mediator between Washington and Baghdad.

But the tour was not that fruitless for the U.S. Washington Iraqi goods and vessels to certain extent. [sentence as published]

Meanwhile some regional and Western circles are trying to drag Iran into the current crisis (triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait) by cashing in on the recent agreements reached between Iran and Iraq over their ten-year long conflict.

Some U.S. congressional quarters have gone so far as to say that Iran intends to act as the means through which Baghdad can break its naval blockade, put into effects against it since its invasion of Kuwait early this month. These quarters claim that Iran may even try to pump out Iraqi oil along with its own via Kharq island.

Such analyses are meant only to drag Iran into the mess. As far as the Islamic Republic is concerned there is a clear distinction between the two important regional issues of Iraq-Iran peace talks and the Iraq-Kuwait invasion.

For a fact, however, the second has expedited the first which has been proceeding at non-stop pace in a span of almost 30 months now.

Now Iran has achieved its rights on the basis of the UN sponsored Resolution 598 and 1975 Algerian Accord signed between Iran and Iraq. To remove any other obstacle on the way to a longlasting peace the Islamic Republic is well prepared to reciprocate any Iraqi goodwill gesture.

But as far as the Kuwaiti crisis is concerned Iran has announced unequivocally that under no conditions, or circumstances, will it accept the occupation of Kuwait and aggression against any country for that matter.

As such Tehran demands a rapid and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and obviously is prepared to help along this line in compliance with United Nations resolution.

But this fact should be well digested by all, that Iran will in no way pit itself in a war against Iraq in order for the Kuwaiti Shaykhs to return, or, for the sake of Western interests in this part of the world. Iran's position towards the deployment of foreign forces in the region is clear. Tehran rejects foreign military presence in this highly sensitive part of the globe. The Islamic Republic firmly condemns presence of foreign powers in the region.

Coordinated Diplomacy Called For

NC2708175090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iraqi Move: A Victory For Reason and Logic"]

[Text] The first batch of Iraqi held Iranian POWs crossed borders and arrived in their Islamic Country, some of them almost after 10 years of captivity, yesterday.

The freedom of these noble and loved sons of the nation unleashed a wave of happiness across the country. The same feelings must have prevailed in Iraq at the release of Iraqi POWs by Iran.

With agreeing to the rightful demands of the Islamic Republic, that are in full compliance with international norms and laws, Iraq has practically taken a big stride in safeguarding the interests of the two nations. The Iraqi announcement of its agreement with Iran's peace overtures early last Wednesday, translated into action as of yesterday, is certainly conducive to world and regional peace.

Iraq's move to respect the Algiers' Accord, signed between the two capitals in 1975, which leaves no ambiguity as long as the administration of the controversial Arvand River is concerned should be lauded. It proves that in spite of all the bitter years of war diplomacy and negotiations offer best solutions to international conflicts. Rather than speaking through the barrel of guns, all governments should depend on talks that can be best be channelized through international bodies. Iraq, however, has corroborated its Iran policy by practically releasing POWs and withdrawing its troops to internationally recognized borders.

With the Iraqi move and Iran's welcoming of it the region is now about to part with one of its longest and bloodiest conflicts. Iraq acted reasonably and bravely by accepting Iran's peace overtures. Why not hope that the current regional crisis, climaxed in the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, too find a solution soon? [sentence as published]

Coordinated regional diplomacy along with efforts by international bodies can certainly end this crisis too. As such the presence of foreign forces in this part of the world will not only not be any help to peace but will aggravate the security situation. This unwanted presence will only shoot up tension in the region and prove detrimental to the regional nations' sovereignty.

With the solution of this decade long conflict between the two powerful nations in this region it is hoped that the Iraq-Kuwait problem too will soon see its end by Iraqi pullout.

Iraq can best assist by accepting the fact that its invading Kuwait has been internationally, and, with no reservation, condemned. Aggression, as put by the Islamic Revolution Leader Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, is condemned whether from Iraq, or the U.S. or any other power. Invasion and military attacks have no supporters in the ending years of the 20th century and will ultimately prove a waste of the precious human life. The sooner Iraq moves out of Kuwait, the better for the Iraqi people and the region at large.

King Fahd's Role Criticized

NC2708191290 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Aug 90 p 6

[Commentary: "Kuwait's Amir a Victim of Fahd's Treachery?"]

[Excerpts] Two weeks have passed since the toppling of the Al-Sabah regime in Kuwait. From Baghdad's point of view an old issue is permanently settle. A part of Iraqi territory, 16,063 square kilometers on which an independent sovereign state, i.e., Kuwait, was established by the British colonialists when Iraq too was under their hegemony, was duly annexed to the motherland.

It is true that the world condemned this act of Iraq and termed it as aggression. It is not intended to say that the condemnation of Iraq's invasion-annexation of Kuwait by the United Nations was not justified. Our primary objective is to see to what extent the claims made by Baghdad can be considered valid or rational and also look at the doubtful role played by Saudi's King Fahd in the crisis.

From a historical point of view Iraq is right in claiming that Kuwait is a part of that country. [passage omitted]

British influence over Iraq was almost over after World War II when it became a republic after overthrowing the British-installed puppet regime of the Hashemite dynasty in 1958. The new regime in Iraq refused to recognize Kuwait as an independent state for two years after the tiny sheykhdom's independence in 1961. Kuwait's ruling family bought themselves out of the critical situation in 1963 by paying Iraq an estimated $3m, a great deal of money at the time.

Since then Kuwait has been paying money to Iraq off and on in order to keep the big neighbor at bay. During the Iraq-Iran War, protection money paid to Iraq is estimated at $40b. Though forwarded as loans, Baghdad openly demanded the debt to be written off.

Before the discovery of oil in 1938 Kuwait was of no significance for Iraq. When it started exporting oil after World War II Iraq's attitude changed. [passage omitted]

So, what Saddam has done, though internationally condemned, does not seem to be entirely wrong. Saddam justifies his action, the annexation of Kuwait, both historically and geographically. Nevertheless, the fact that the Kuwaiti sheykhs used to pay tribute to the Ottoman Empire in the past and later to the Iraqi regime and lately to the present Ba'thist regime, should not be overlooked while airing an opinion on the action taken by Baghdad against the Al-Sabah family in Kuwait.

Now coming to the second point: The role played by Fahd in the perpetration of the crisis. First of all it should be noted that in November last year a non-aggression pact was signed between Fahd and Saddam. [passage omitted]

It should be remembered that for three days Riyadh remained silent over the issue of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Similarly, it had very little to say in the Arab League's emergency meetings in Cairo. Obviously Fahd was not enthusiastic about confronting Saddam. Certainly Fahd's reaction was mild when compared to that of the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the Palestinians and other Arab leaders. Despite Iraq's repeated announcements that it had no intention of attacking Saudi Arabia, Fahd did his best to demonstrate to the Arabs and the world that his country will be the next target of Saddam's wrath. Later on it became clear that this was another treacherous bit of acting by the Saudi king. He was just preparing grounds for making an appeal to the United States to come to the rescue of his kingdom. The rest is a well-known story. In case the present crisis worsens, and probably it will, the Muslim world will put a great share of the responsibility on the shoulders of King Fahd. Right now the Arab masses fully agree with Saddam when he calls Fahd a "corrupt ruler". Sooner or later they will come to know that Fahd was a treacherous Arab as well.

And to the Muslims at large Fahd is already known as a stooge of the United States, a most unholy man put in charge of the holiest Muslim sanctuaries—one who doesn't hesitate to slaughter the hajis, guests of Allah, if ordered by Washington to do so.

Need To Remove Iraq From Kuwait

NC2708191590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Aug 90 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Consequences of Kuwait's Annexation by Iraq"]

[Text] If Saddam's military expedition against Kuwait leads to the permanent establishment of the aggressing troops in that country, then Saddam will have achieved what he wants. But this is something which will definitely not benefit the Islamic Republic and other neighbors of Iraq. Of course, Saudi Arabia and Turkey will be the most and the least harmed, respectively, from this action. This will not be a favorable outcome for America either, but it will try to compensate for this disappointment by gaining new bases in the region.

If Saddam does not achieve a satisfactory result—in other words, if the aggressing troops do not remain in Kuwait—then nothing will be achieved unless these troops are attacked, and this attack will definitely be expensive. Is there anyone in the region who will be prepared to undertake this expense?

The foreigners in Kuwait and Iraq—who are actually hostages—will constitute one part of the heavy price that the West will have to pay should it attack Iraq. The bombing and missile attacks on the cities and major points in the countries that have participated in the intervention against Iraq will constitute the other part. Moreover, an attack which will only free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation and overthrow Saddam will be very expensive and will have a heavy casualty toll, especially since the West, and even the reactionary Arab rulers, fear the vaccuum that will be created with the overthrow of Saddam.

Thus it can be said that a military attack against Iraq is improbable, because the regaining of Kuwait's independence is not of such significance—either for Saudi Arabia, or for Iraq, or even for America—to be worth the damage that can be inflicted by an attack against Saddam. The West is well aware that even if Saddam dominates Kuwait, it will still be sharing in the oil benefits and will not be losing the markets that it had in these two countries which have now become one. Moreover, Saudi Arabia will always need the West and will foot a large part of the West's military bills for many years to come for its presence in the region.

Thus the West can easily conform its interests with the situation that will rise after the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq. It is only the oil-producing countries of the Persian Gulf that will shoulder the heavy cost of Iraq's long-term domination over Kuwait. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain will become more dependent on the West and spend their oil incomes to consolidate American domination in the region; the Islamic Republic will face a stronger Saddam with a higher international credibility with Iraq's annexation of Kuwait's economy and oil; and western militarists will continue to be present in the region. All of these are reasons why all these countries should draw up a plan to oust Iraq from Kuwait and to use all their resources, capabilities, and diplomacy toward this end.

President Bush's 'New Adventure'

NC2708194290 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 14 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Paying the Costs"]

[Text] For the time being at least, the Americans are braced for an indefinite deployment in the Persian Gulf region. In the biggest U.S. military build-up since the Vietnam War, the Pentagon is rapidly sending combat troops and warplanes to Saudi Arabia ostensibly to defend the corrupt Al Sa'ud regime. In doing so President George Bush is talking about "standing up for principles". In simple language he has also informed the people of the United States that operation "Desert Shield" might well cost a great deal.

The immediate question, of course, is who will pay the cost for President Bush's new adventure and whether the puppet regime in Riyadh will survive its being fully responsible for turning the waterway into another base for Western imperialism? Considering all the arrogance displayed by the U.S. ad its allies from the four corners of the world, it can be fairly stated that armed clashes between foreign forces and Ba'athist troops is inevitable. Nobody can say for sure when this will happen, but when it happens the Americans are not going to like it. Their

future objections will not matter much as the president has clarified the situation at the outset.

Regarding the cost in dollars, America's military interference in the affairs of Persian Gulf states is going to be something between one billion to three billion dollars over six months. One military analyst has estimated the deployment cost close to $300 million a month "with not a shot fired". The latter forecast is based on sending 50,000 troops and three aircraft carrier groups with fighter planes.

Though it is difficult to give clearer estimates of the Saudi operation at this stage, no doubts should be entertained as to who will generate all the money to safeguard U.S. "national interests" in the strategic region. In the recent past Saudi petrodollars were allocated to 'defend' Arab honor in the war against the Islamic Revolution. At that time too, King Fahd was paying President Saddam Husayn's bills not because he had a soft corner for the Iraqi dictator, but because he had been told to do so by the U.S. administration. Now that the immense and complex Western military buildup has come on the direct "invitation" of the royal Saudi family, its expenses have to be met by the desert Kingdom's treasury.

When the shooting starts, the ante could rise much higher depending on a number of things; particularly on how many Americans die in the burning Saudi deserts. All those who are in this dangerous game know that one mistake or accident can have serious consequences for the interventionists, their hosts and the Arab peoples of the littoral states. In terms of American life, justifying casualties is the sole responsibility of the White House and President Bush has already educated his people about what may be in store for them. Compensation to families of victims, however, will come straight from Riyadh. If Arab troops are killed in action or civilian areas hit, cameras will be zoomed in on the Saudi monarch and his royal cronies.

In either case there is no going easy for King Fahd and President Bush in the coming weeks. The former's position is more vulnerable in that Saddam has declared "jihad" against the pro-Western Wahhabi establishment.

In wake of Saddam's call for the ouster of Arabia's ruling class and the growing pressure to dislodge the Ba'ath Party chief through full-fledged international sanctions, a naval blockade and perhaps even assassination, several issues will be put to a test. If the fighting starts, the principles declared by Bush will be the first to be targetted.

The world will wait and see what measures U.S. commanders will take to stand by their own principles within international law and basic human relations. This wil be followed by testing Saddam's reach in extending his aggressive hold on neighboring states. It will be seen how far he can go in achieving what Egypt's Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir failed miserably in doing while attempting to bolster his nationalist credentials. In the final analysis, Saudi wisdom will be subjected to the severest scrutiny. If viewed from the results of the Iran-Iraq conflict and Saudi Arabia's role therein, King Fahd has scored zero points and is disqualified even if the Persian Gulf crisis is resolved without bloodshed.

Men like Fahd have a narrow vision and no right to be in power. Ten years and a war later the Saudi monarch found out that he was on the wrong side. Not surprisingly he is making the mistake once again. This time, however, the stakes are much higher and there are no indications that true Muslims will forgive the treason being committed in the holy lands. Kuwait has been virtually destroyed for leaning towards falsehood. Saudi Arabia's destiny cannot be much different.

Commentary Views Turkish Role in Gulf Crisis

NC2008204490 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkey and the Gulf Crisis"]

[Excerpts] In view of the strong criticism of President Ozal by the opposition parties in Turkey over his interference in executive functions and decisions in connection with the Gulf crisis, the Turkish parliament held an extraordinary session on Sunday and empowered the government to declare a state of war and deploy troops outside Turkey's borders. Speaking during the extraordinary session, in which confusion broke out a number of times as a result of the criticisms leveled by the opposition parties against President Ozal, Erdal Inonu, leader of the Social Democratic Populist Party, accused Ozal of yearning for a dictatorship. [passage omitted]

Although several of the strong NATO countries, in addition to the United States, have said that they are ready to send troops to the Gulf region to help ward off the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, they have refrained from deploying their infantry units in the region. Meanwhile, they have been trying to persuade Turkey to open a new front against Iraq if that country attacks Saudi Arabia. The NATO countries believe that they will not need to send troops to the region if Turkey, which maintains the largest army in NATO after the United States, involves itself in a clash in the Gulf region. Of the 16 NATO countries, only France, Britain, the FRG, and Italy announced that they were prepared to participate in a multinational force against Iraq. However, they later restricted themselves to sending only a number of their naval units. The cautious approach by these countries has prompted Turkish officials to consider Turkey's interests more than anything else. The ruling Motherland Party, which is headed by Yildirim Akbulut and has only a small majority in parliament, has recently been the target of strong attacks and threats by the opposition parties. Obviously, taking into consideration the serious economic crisis the Turkish Government has to deal with and the dispute and fighting between the Kurds and the government, the political parties have already been preparing to benefit from the political shocks the government will suffer as a result of the Gulf crisis.

The existence of such obstructive elements, on the one hand, and the promises made by the NATO countries of financial and economic aid, on the other, have placed the Turkish Government in a very sensitive and critical stage of its political life.

Nevertheless, it is a fact that the Turkish Government, through using its relations with the countries in the region and with NATO and maintaining a farsighted diplomacy, can play a positive role, inclining toward the interests of the countries in the region, without becoming the victim of the aspirations of the Western countries in the latest friction.

Commentary Views Turkey Transportation Protocol

NC2708084290 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A protocol on cooperation between Iran and Turkey in air, land, and rail transportation was signed at the conclusion of the Iranian transport minister's visit to Turkey last week.

The shared geographic, historical, economic, cultural, and religious features in Iran and Turkey provide a favorable basis for economic cooperation between the two countries in general and there can be no doubt that they both stand to benefit from the development of these relations. Air, land, and rail transportation constitutes a basis for the development of economic relations, the importance of which serves as an indication of the level of relations between the two countries.

Iran and Turkey agreed to upgrade the volume of trade exchanges during the eighth session of the Iranian-Turkish joint economic committee which was held in March 1990. In view of this, the development of cooperation in transportation between the two countries is indispensable. Under the protocol on cooperation in air, land, and rail transportation signed at the end of the Iranian transport minister's visit to Turkey, the two countries will each increase the number of their flights to the other country to five a week. They also reached an agreement on the exchange of advanced technology in air transportation.

Iran and Turkey also agreed that more Iranian trucks will be given permits to enter Turkey and that Iran will increase the amount of its imports through Turkish ports to 1 million tons in 1991. Meanwhile, the protocol noted that a passenger train will begin operating between Tehran and Istanbul in the near future. Another point included in the protocol is related to improving cooperation in mail, telegram, and telephone services between the two countries.

It is clear that this protocol signed by Iran and Turkey will further broaden the scope of relations between the two countries.

Paper Assails Mohtashami's Criticisms

NC0308102790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Time To View Vital Issues in Healthy Way"]

[Text] How regrettable indeed it is that there are still individuals who are still too far away from reality. These are the people who can only see the negative side to each and every matter that comes up before them and by regarding things in this way cast aside the true interests of the revolution.

A recent example of such attitudes came up during Wednesday's pre-agenda speech in the Majlis by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami when he criticized a decision of the Assembly of Experts regarding the selection of members to the assembly. It was decided that the Council of Guardians should decide on the qualifications of the members of the Assembly. They were also to determine the merits of the candidates to the assembly of Experts on the basis of their being either Mojjahed (expert in Islamic jurisprudence), or be at the level of Ejtehad (being an expert).

Mohtashami's harsh criticism against the decision of the Assembly of Experts indicates that the provocative move was in all probability preplanned and had the backing of certain groups who wish to change the basic construction and bring into disrepute the credibility of the Assembly of Experts.

Nevertheless the members of the Assembly of Experts very well aware that the speech was nothing more than a deliberate provocation went ahead Wednesday to affirm their earlier moves in the interests of maintaining the stability and safety of this sacred and vital organization.

The decision of the Assembly of Experts has in fact ensured the political health of this body and no doubt will contribute to the stability of this and enhance its magnitude and power.

The second axial point in Mohtashami's criticism concerns the country's economic and reconstruction policies.

It is not clear on what grounds one can interpret the Islamic economy as identical with a fully state-controlled economy. It is now quite time [as published] since this type of economy has begun to lose its luster and even its staunchest advocates have explicitly termed it a "catastrophe".

Such outmoded policies if persisted with can only hurt the economic and industrial clout of the nation. The advocates of a all government-run economy even criticize President Rafsanjani's policy in trying to reconstruct the country's economy.

Support for the now moribund socialist and full state-run economy is not only a move to weaken the government and the president's economic policies but an attempt to force the Islamic Republic into a deadlock and ultimately cause it to crash.

No one, however, is opposed to an all-out campaign by the government against economic terrorists. The government should prepare immediate and very serious plans to this end in order to stem the leech-like hold by capitalists and hoarders and those sabotaging economic plans.

*Mohtashemi Said Slowly Being Cast Aside

90AS0289B London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] The newspaper KEYHAN of Tehran, which was controlled by Sheykh 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the leader of a faction opposed to Hashemi Rafsanjani, printed for the first time an article opposed to Mohtashemi's views and his recent opposition to the decisions by the Assembly of Experts, written by someone named 'Ali Baqeri, titled "Footnotes on the Tehran Deputy's Pre-Agenda Speech."

The author of this article accused and reproached Mohtashemi for attempting to eliminate the opposing faction and make a single-faction regime, saying that he himself is the problem. The article ends by saying:

"Therefore, if such measures can undermine the decisions of the Assembly of Experts, unfortunately we must say that the fault lies with those expressing the views such as the speaker we have been discussing, and we hope that this will not be the case."

There has also been a striking increase in attacks on Mohtashemi in the other newspapers. Recently the newspaper ETTELA'AT accused Mohtashemi of using his attacks on America as a means of achieving personal notoriety. ETTELA'AT writes:

"Did Mr. Mohtashemi think that anti-American slogans are peculiar to him, and that this was a way to make a name for himself in the Western propaganda press? Has he made the mistake of thinking that he is a powerful Iranian man on the basis of propaganda from American radio?"

Political observers believe that the expression of opposition is gradually being taken away from Sheykh 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, and with restrictions on the financial resources given to him by the regime, his group of domestic supporters is also being reduced. In Lebanon the Hezbollah, who are Mohtashemi's largest power base, are in perilous circumstances, and Arafat's forces and the Amal Organization are putting serious and new restrictions on the Hezbollah of Lebanon. In the course of recent clashes between the Hezbollah and the Amal Organization, Nabih Berri, the leader of the Amal Organization, sent a message to Hashemi Rafsanjani saying that he must remove the government Hezbollah revolutionary guards from Lebanon, and he emphasized that these revolutionary guards are taking orders from Mohtashemi himself, and they are taking orders from Mohtashemi to disrupt conditions in Lebanon.

It is expected that in the next elections for the Assembly of Experts, which will take place in two months, few people in Mohtashemi's group will find their way there. Currently the main base of support for Mohtashemi and his group is the Majles, almost two thirds of whose members support Mohtashemi. During the elections for this Majles term, Mohtashemi was minister of the interior, and he had direct influence in the election of these people.

It is said that Hashemi Rafsanjani's group will tolerate Mohtashemi's group until the next Majles elections, but that in the next elections the door will be closed to Mohtashemi's supporters and that his power will be reduced to a minimum, so that the danger from him that threatens those in high office today will not exist.

Serious measures now being taken to thwart another organization under Mohtashemi's influence, include the "Unity Strengthening Office."

This office, whose real name is the "National Union of Islamic University Students," dominated all political activities in the universities in recent years. It guided the extremist Hezbollah political processes in the institutions of higher learning in the interest of Mohtashemi's group, but four months ago Hashemi Rafsanjani's group strengthened the competing Islamic groups in the university environments against the Unity Strengthening Office, and the latest activity by the Unity Strengthening Office was a demonstration against Hashemi Rafsanjani's deputy 'Atta'ollah Mohajerati, after he wrote an article called "Direct Talks" with America. Since then activities of the Unity Strengthening Office have been sharply curtailed. Last week the chief of the College of Judicial Sciences and Administrative Services asked them to close the union office at the university and evacuate the site. The closing of this union office is seen as one more step to limit Mohtashemi's influence in the country.

*Rafsanjani Orders Production of Lead-Free Gas

90AS0277C Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
4 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] Tehran-Central News Unit—On the morning of the day before yesterday (Monday) [2 Jul], a decree issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani and addressed to the Petroleum Ministry instructed it to take action on the production of no-lead gasoline.

This will be done in line with the provision of hygiene and public health and the reduction of environmental pollution, especially in large cities.

According to this decree, the Petroleum Ministry must cooperate with other appropriate organizations to plan and determine the time of the implementation of the production of no-lead gasoline.

In his decree, the president has ordered that until achievement of final results, the aforementioned activities must be followed up expeditiously and that he be frequently briefed on the progress.

*President on Need To Involve Women in Workforce

90AS0277B Tehran NAMEH-YE IRAN in Persian 7 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a meeting with a group of sisters [women] emphasized that the climate for activating the social life of women in the Islamic society is ripe. [He also indicated that] we must introduce a new and exceptional model for women's participation in [social] activities.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani called all the dedicated and pious women of the country the scouts of the Islamic movement in the women's society. By pointing out the influence of Islam among the dedicated sisters of our country, he said that after the victory of the revolution ladies have withdrawn from the glitter and luxury. The level of their education is higher [than before] and the number of women in the universities is much larger than before the revolution.

The president added: Fortunately, after the victory of the Islamic Revolution the women of our society were released from the trap that had been spread in the paths of Muslim women by the corrupt culture of the West and their life-style was corrected. However, for me as an official of the Islamic Republic regime these advances and achievements are not at a suitable level. We have repulsed the danger of the western culture but there must be a replacement in order to respond to social and women's needs.

The president said: Women make up half of our society and, no doubt, nowadays the talents and forces of women are not utilized in the society as much as men's.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that in order to stimulate the society and speed the economic wheels of our country, we need women in our workforce. While emphasizing adherence to Islamic behavior by women in social life, the president added that one of the pitfalls women face comes directly from immoral women who are perhaps less than two to three percent of women in our society, and that the majority does not tolerate such behavior.

The president then pointed out a number of women theology students who were present in this gathering and said: Ladies can be philosophers, orators, scholars, and also prayer leaders. They can also be writers, and this not only does not contradict morality, but also propagates chastity.

The president then criticized a number of fanatics who consider hearing the voice of women sacrilegious and said: We witnessed that His Eminence, the Imam, may God place him in heaven, listened to speeches by ladies on radio and television and encouraged it.

Women theology students can become high school teachers, teachers, writers, and jurists and they must only adhere to Islamic behavior.

Addressing a number of women athletes who had gathered in this meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that sport facilities for women must be provided because the number of sports arenas for women are inadequate. At the same time, women must participate in world-wide sporting meets in sports that are acceptable to Islamic [moral codes].

In conclusion, the president emphasized the active participation of women in social, economic, and cultural arenas. He pointed out the participation of women in the early days of Islam—and particularly the wives of the Prophet—and asked that the women of our country present a new model and method to the world.

In this gathering a number of women theology students from the city region of Rafsanjan, Tehran, and Shahr-e Rey, officials responsible for women's sports, sisters who participated in the sharp-shooting meet in China, sisters belonging to the Darul Maaref Al-Zahra (S), a number of esteemed families of martyrs, Basiji sisters from Ministry of Treasury and Economic Affairs and its dependent institutions were present.

*Yazdi on Interference in Name of Human Rights

90AS0293C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 25 Jul 90 p 26

[Interview with Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judicial branch, by KEYHAN HAVA'I; place and date not given]

[Text] **Tehran. KEYHAN HAVA'I NEWS SERVICE. 25 Tir/16 July. Some time ago, Amnesty International, contrary to all legal international regulations, interfering in the internal affairs of Iran, demanded the dissolution of the revolution courts. This issue was also broadcast on the Persian language division of the BBC. In this connection, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch, said in an interview with KEYHAN HAVA'I: Amnesty International has no right and essentially no one can interfere in the affairs of other countries under the pretext of human rights and protecting human dignity. The text of this interview follows:**

[Yazdi] So far, 3,000 legal articles concerning Islamic laws and penal laws have been ratified by the Majles, and at the present all the judicial courts in the country operate according to laws and the Islamic judicial system. Hence, I can say that what takes place in the judicial system of the country and the standards by which the judges act are determined by the Islamic laws which have either been ratified by the Majles or have been announced by the Council of Guardians. Regarding the pamphlet in question, I must say that this pamphlet was prepared before the visit of Mr. (Galinduvil) to Iran, translated into English and put at his disposal during his visit to Iran. Even in meetings that were held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, brief explanations were given about this pamphlet. I have given a number of these pamphlets to ambassadors who come to the judicial branch office and wish to become familiar with the

Islamic judicial system of Iran. At the present, anyone from anywhere can obtain as many of these pamphlets as he wants immediately. In this pamphlet, a summary of the Islamic judicial system has been explained and described. I must mention that this pamphlet has been prepared and published to be suitable for the general reader. In addition to this pamphlet, some of the civil and penal laws of Iran and also the Constitution have been fully published in Arabic, English, and French.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] A number of international agencies by direct interference in the affairs of other countries try to propagate and impose their legal views, which are mainly based on Western culture and laws in other countries. So far, no serious steps have been taken to deal with such agencies. How have you dealt or will you deal with such agencies?

[Yazdi] From the first day I came to the judicial branch, I decided to form a committee called the international committee. For this reason, several judges and legal authorities who were experts in the international law were invited, and in the judicial branch numerous discussion meetings were held in their presence, which resulted in the agenda and general rules for the actions of the committee, of which the members of the committee were notified. One of these cases was to inform other judicial systems existing in the world about the Islamic judicial system as well as showing the strong points of the Islamic judicial system and the weak points of other judicial systems existing in the world. Among the duties of this committee was to attend to issues that relate to the international affairs of the judicial branch, for example, correspondence and response to the letters of international agencies or other countries' judicial authorities and response to Amnesty International and the human rights organization, the first being a free agency and the second an official international agency affiliated with the United Nations. I must also add that our correspondence and relations with Amnesty International take place in a free form.

In this connection, I must say that Amnesty International has so far during my tenure written letters to the judicial branch which were mostly about a particular subject matter. For example, they have asked us to allow some prisoner to appoint an attorney for himself, requested a reduced sentence for another, or asked for the release of a prisoner. We have responded to all the issues referred to. In other words, we have said that the defendant has the right to appoint an attorney, appeal and object to the ruling, and make use of his rights. In regards to the reduction of his sentence, we have explained the crime and the evidence to them and have also explained the proper punishment appropriate to the crime. We have told them that if a criminal meets the requirements for being pardoned, in certain cases, he shall be freed by the leader in accordance with the existing laws. In the judicial branch, we announce that Amnesty International or any other agency may be active without having political objectives. But I must also say that under the pretext of human rights no one can interfere in the affairs of another country. In some of our responses to international agencies or other actual persons who correspond with us, we have made these points clear. For example, as regards those who spied for the United States in Iran and are now in prison, we have received letters from the judicial officials and other official authorities of other countries and also from legal experts and other individuals who have called for freedom or a reduced sentence or permission for the accused to have an attorney. We have received about 25 or 26 letters from Amnesty International and others in this regard. In response to these letters, we have written that the accused have had and have permission to appoint attorneys for themselves and have the right to object to the ruling of the court, as they have done. At present, the cases of these defendants are being examined in the supreme court for revision and a final decision. Any criminal shall be punished in accordance with the crime he has committed, and all punishments are not the same. The necessary rulings shall be issued appropriate to their crimes. The relationship of the judicial branch with foreign agencies is a judicial and nonpolitical relationship. We are not concerned with what the policies of the foreign agencies and individuals are. We only explain the judicial issues to them.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Why is it that the release of a group accused of spying for a foreign country, all Iranian citizens, is important for foreign agencies and individuals, and they show their concern about them by writing letters to the judicial branch, but an individual such as Mehrdad Kowkabi, an Iranian student who was studying for his doctoral degree and who is now in a British prison, is not important to them, even though the British police have no evidence or document acceptable in a court against him, and, contrary to all the efforts made to make him appear guilty, they have been unable to prove the accusations against him on the basis of evidence in the court? According to our information, so far, no humanitarian agencies, those who follow human rights and other legal and actual individuals who are concerned about the prisoners and human rights, have written letters to the British judicial and government authorities about this innocent prisoner or protested his illegal arrest. How do you evaluate this problem?

[Yazdi] In the Islamic regime, law and the judicial system are fully independent and removed from politics. Crimes and claims are investigated on the basis of Islamic laws. When a person's guilt is proven, appropriate punishment is issued. But, unfortunately, I must say that in some countries such proper judicial procedures are not followed, and witnesses report that in some of these countries, the judicial authorities or those with influence over the judicial authorities bring political issues into the judicial issues. I do not make a claim against anyone, but when I study the current events in the world, I see that the actions of some of the gentlemen who rise up under the pretext of human rights, Amnesty International and the protection of human dignity are not pure and sincere. Indeed, some of these actions are

impure. For example, if we arrest a person who has spied for the United States and foreigners and the case of the defendant has not yet been concluded, all the loudspeakers of the Western organizations raise their voices against us. But in similar situations, such as the death of the Hajj pilgrims in the tunnel of Mena where 2,000 persons were killed or in regards to the use of chemical weapons against innocent people, no one questions why such crimes have taken place. I will give you another example: The British created a climate against us and started propaganda about imprisoning a British national in Iran, even though we allowed this British prisoner to meet with his friends and relatives, and he is free to correspond with those outside the prison. We even attend to his protest. At the present time, because of his protest, his case is being examined and going through final review in the Supreme Court. However, we see that the situation of Iranians who are in British prisons is quite different. They are not paid the necessary attention. Of course, I must say that under particular circumstances, if necessary, we shall get involved in the issue to retrieve the rights of Iranian citizens through international courts, and if we see that in a country the necessary attention is not paid to an Iranian detainee, it is our duty to make use of international laws to have his case examined.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Recently, Amnesty International called for the dissolution of the revolution courts. Is such a demand not essentially interference in the affairs of another country? Does Amnesty International essentially have such a right to call for the dissolution of the judicial system of a country?

[Yazdi] The answer is quite clear. Amnesty International does not have such a right. Neither this agency nor any other agency or person can tell a country to decrease or increase its judicial organization or to do thus and so. No one has such a right. In Iran, in accordance with the Constitution of the country, the creation of a judicial system in keeping with Islamic laws is the duty of the former Supreme Judicial Council (previous text of the Constitution) and, at present, the chief of the judicial branch (in accordance with the amendment to the Constitution). The revolution courts, too, act on the basis of the laws ratified by the Majles, and their authority has been defended and specified by the laws ratified in the Majles. For this reason, their activities are no different from those of other courts, such as general courts. The duties of each are clear and specific. Hence, it is obvious that Amnesty International does not have such a right and cannot say that the revolution courts must be dissolved. But this agency can say that, for instance, such and such a ruling has been contrary to the law or something contrary to international laws and treaties has taken place, in which case Amnesty International can show us where we have acted contrary to the law or contrary to international treaties and tell us that that was a violation. If Amnesty International claims that it is not affiliated with any country or place, it must prove its claim. In other words, it must protest to countries that on the surface pretend to be defenders of human rights. Of course, since some time ago, a bill for the formation of general courts has been in the Majles for examination, and if ratified all the courts will be combined and the judicial system of the country will be more centralized.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Opposition to the judicial system of Iran has existed from the very first day of the victory of the revolution. But it has now become more vehement. In your opinion, why are the revolution courts the target of the propaganda and political attacks of the foreign enemies and their agents?

[Yazdi] The negative propaganda of the foreigners against the judicial system of the country is in fact an attack against the regime of the Islamic Republic. They are essentially against our regime. If the judicial system of Iran is attacked, this attack is against Islam and the Islamic regime. But there is another issue as well. The revolution courts have many advantages over the previous judicial system—in other words, speed of investigation, precision in action and issuance of rulings. In the previous judicial system, a case could be kept for four or five or even 10 years and more without being attended to. But this is not possible in the revolution courts. Perhaps another reason for the propaganda attack of foreigners against the revolution courts is its significant distinction. Of course, I must say that we intend to advance all of our courts toward speed of investigation and precision in action and issuance of rulings, and this is the general and essential policy of the judicial branch. In other words, all our courts will enjoy the positive characteristics of the revolution courts.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] The rulings in regards to some of the foreign spies have not yet been determined. Is there any particular reason?

[Yazdi] I have pointed out earlier, as well as elsewhere, that the cases of the spies are being examined in the Supreme Court due to the protest of the defendants. Last week, I asked the honorable chief justice about the cases and I have received an answer.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Are you referring to Roger Cooper, the British spy?

[Yazdi] Yes, that is who I mean. In the very near future, the final ruling of the Supreme Court concerning the foreign spies which is going through the final stages of investigation and examination will be announced and immediately carried out. Obviously, after the ruling is issued, everyone will be informed.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Thank you.

*Liquid Gas Distribution Worse Than Wartime

90AS0289C London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The distribution of liquid gas is in short supply and four months behind schedule in Tehran, and for this reason sometimes a tank of gas, with an official price of 185 rials, sells for 500 rials.

Buyers of liquid gas tanks in Tehran told news reporters that the distribution of liquid gas is now more uneven and behind schedule than it was during the war. The Iran National Liquid Gas Company claims that the reason for the shortage of liquid gas is the shortage of facilities to transport it from the production site to the distribution centers.

*Proposal To Eliminate Milk, Dairy Subsidies

90AS0289c London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] In implementing the policy to subsidize basic goods for the people, government financial assistance to maintain low prices for milk, yogurt, and goat cheese is to be eliminated. The proposal to reduce subsidies on milk and dairy products has been prepared and sent to the Economic Council for approval. If this is approved by the Economic Council, from now on rationed milk, sold at 20 rials per half-liter, will disappear and be replaced by unrationed milk sold at 50 rials per half-liter (2.5 times more).

*Blackouts, Interruption of Water Increasing

90AS0289E London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Aug 90 pp 1, 3

[Text] In the intense summer heat, most cities are faced with increased blackout time and interruptions in the supply of drinking water. The shortage of electrical power in the national network, especially in the municipalities of Central Province, has created problems for the provision of other services. On some days last week the temperature was higher than 42 degrees centigrade.

For example, in the Municipality of Arak electrical power was cut off eight out of every 24 hours, and when that happened the water pumps stopped working at the wells.

Repeated interruptions in water and electricity service in the municipalities of Central Province have created long lines at the bakeries and added to the dissatisfaction of the people.

In Eslamshahr, not only is water unavailable for public consumption during the day, but the people are also deprived of potable water at night. According to the newspaper ABRAR, every day the people must pump water out of the wells with hand cranks to get the water they need to live.

*Disabled Lowshan Power Plant Adds to Blackouts

90AS0289J London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] The loss of the Lowshan Power Plant from the nation's power network due to the recent earthquake in Gilan, the increased temperature and the consequent increase in the use of cooling equipment have caused increased electrical power blackouts in most of the nation's cities.

Engineer Ahmad Yazdi, the manager of electrical and communications distribution for the Tehran District Electrical Company, gave a press conference early last week in which he told correspondents and press representatives that about one-third of the blackouts in the national network are in Tehran. He explained that currently the blackouts in Tehran and Esfahan are about equal, and that the level of blackouts in the other provinces—in relation to the volume of use—is less than that of Tehran and Esfahan.

According to reports from Tehran, blackouts have been increasing in recent weeks in this city, which has seen major oscillations in recent months, and this week Tehran has had about 2.5 to three hours of blackouts per 24-hour period. Many Tehran residents are uncomfortable because of the continued blackouts and the intensity of the summer heat. Apparently the shortage of water caused by drought is adding to their current problems.

Although Tehran's regional electrical officials have given increased heat, increased electrical consumption, and interrupted operation of the Lowshan power plant as the chief reasons for the increasing blackouts in Tehran and other cities, it appears that the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Power, despite its prior promises, has not yet been able to strengthen the national electrical production and distribution network and to complete the nation's energy production plants. An energy expert told KEYHAN's reporter that the loss of the 360-megawatt Lowshan power plant from the national electrical power production network will mean that for the foreseeable future residents of the capital and other Iranian cities will continue to be faced with repeated electrical power blackouts.

With regard to the long hours of blackouts in Tehran and other cities, a spokesman for the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Power recently asked the people to conserve on electrical power consumption, especially during the peak hours between 1800 and 2100 hours, so the Ministry of Power will not have to cut off power and resort to scheduled blackouts.

*First Five-Year Plan Faces Difficulties

90AS0289FLondon KEYHAN in Persian
2 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The implementation of the Islamic Republic regime's Five-Year Economic, Political, and Cultural Plan is faced with serious administrative and human problems. The shortage of specialist and experienced manpower, the assignment of key tasks to nonspecialists because of their loyalty to the government of the Islamic Republic, the existence of an enormous bureaucracy in the executive organizations, and the failure of Hezbollah officials to take the programs seriously have brought failure to the implementation of this plan in all its dimensions.

The six years spent preparing the regime's First Five-Year Economic, Political, and Cultural Plan was time

wasted, and it is now impossible to implement it. Majles Deputy Sheykh Rasul Montakhab-Niya, who has acknowledged the problems preventing the implementation of this plan, emphasized, "if this plan does not succeed, everyone will despair and lose hope for the government of the Islamic Republic and its programs."

The first person to say it is practically impossible to implement the regime's First Five-Year Economic, Political, and Cultural Plan was Morteza Alviri, the chief of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission. After this plan was approved in the Majles, he announced that the plan could not be implemented with existing administrative and technical personnel.

Soviet Engineers To Build Three Dams on Karun

90AS0280E London KEYHAN in Persian
19 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] By building a dam over the Karun River in Khuzestan Province, the Ministry of Power of the Islamic Republic intends to increase the electrical output in this province. The production capacity of the power plant that will be utilized in conjunction with the dam has been forecast to be 1,000 megawatt. The construction operation of this power plant is scheduled to begin by the middle of the 1990's.

According to a report by the economic weekly MEED, published in London, the agreement for conducting the preliminary studies in regards to the construction of the said power plant will be given to an international company. This weekly wrote that the agreement for conducting the initial studies will most likely be given to the Lahmeyer Consulting Engineering Firm from the Federal Republic of Germany. The MEED publication added: "The 1,000 megawatt power plant will be an addition to another 1,000 megawatt power plant which was built in 1978 by the French company Alsthom on the banks of this river and is designated as the Karun 1 Electrical Generation Plant. This dam will be built along the said river, close to a place called Godar Landar and its electrical production capability will reach 920 megawatts.

The Ministry of Power of the Islamic Republic, in order to begin the construction of the said dam toward the end of 1991, will invite international contractors to participate in the bidding. An Iranian engineering consulting firm by the name of Mushanir will also participate in the construction operation of the said dam.

The economic weekly MEED in part of its report regarding the construction of dams in the Khuzestan wrote: "Presently, the Ministry of Power of the Islamic Republic wishes to build other dams on the Karun River. Among the countries being named most likely to accept contracts for the construction of these dams is the Soviet Union." MEED added: "It is expected that agreements regarding the construction of dams 2, 3, and 4 of Karun will be given to Russian engineers."

According to reports received from Iran, the Water and Electricity Organization of Khuzestan intends to give the contract for design, initial studies, and construction of three other dams in the Khuzestan province to the Canadian consulting company of Acourse International.

The said dams will have electrical power and generation capacity of 760, two 3,000, and 910 megawatt accordingly.

* Higher Interest on Deposits Approved

90AS0280F London KEYHAN in Persian
19 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic and the High Monetary and Credit Council approved the suggestion regarding the increase of interest rates for bank deposits. As of last week, interest rates for bank accounts were increased to 13 percent in some instances. 'Adeli, governor-general of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic, told reporters at a news conference: "Considering the increase in the trust of the people of the banking system and the activation of the role of banks in the reconstruction of the country, and finally, the leading of deposits toward production, it was decided that interest rates on bank deposits should increase."

The Central Bank governor-general added: "Currently, three new deposits have been added to the previous ones. These include the two-year deposit with 10 percent, three-year deposit with 11 percent and five-year deposits with a 13-percent interest rate. This is at a time when the interest rate on short- and long-term deposits has increased to 6.57 percent and 8.75 percent, respectively."

In part of his remarks, the said official stated: "Those who wish to invest can come to the bank from now on and pick up investment forms for making deposits."

He added: "Such investments in banks will not block people's money in the banks and the depositor will be able to reclaim his/her deposit at any time he/she wishes. However, the interest on the deposit will be paid out according to the time that deposited money will be paid to the bank."

The Central Bank governor-general asked the people and investors to utilize their capital in manufacturing and public service affairs by coming to banks and avoiding nonbanking entities such as limited partnerships and other such companies that are high risk.

*Thousands Demonstrate Against Pasdaran Presence

90AS0289A London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Aug 90 pp 1, 3

[Text] Five days after 500,000 Lebanese Shi'ites demonstrated against the presence of the Islamic Republic's revolutionary guards in that land, and following the daily-increasing pressure from Amal and Palestinian forces, the Islamic Republic regime was finally forced to withdraw Iranian revolutionary guard forces from south Lebanon, and also to accept the deployment of Lebanese

army forces to maintain peace in the south. This is the first time the Lebanese army has been used to prevent clashes outside Beirut.

Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al-Huss was informed of the Islamic Republic's agreement to remove revolutionary guard forces from south Lebanon and to the deployment of Lebanese army forces between Hezbollah, Amal and Palestinian forces in a letter from 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Islamic Republic's foreign minister.

One week earlier, the president of Lebanon sent a letter to Rafsanjani asking for the Islamic Republic regime's mediation in establishing a cease fire between the conflicting forces in south Lebanon.

The sharp clashes in the last three weeks between Amal and Palestinian forces on the one hand and the Hezbollah and revolutionary guard forces on the other began in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, causing very heavy casualties. Last Saturday [28 Jul] the Hezbollah expressed a desire for a unilateral cease fire to remove its wounded from the war zones.

In these clashes the Hezbollah and revolutionary guard forces stationed in south Lebanon sought to take control of Nabatiyet and the Sidon port area, thereby enabling them to maintain permanent and direct communications outside the area and with the Islamic Republic regime by sea, and to resist future pressure and broken lines of communication with Syrian assistance; however, they were not successful. Contrary to its past practice, the Syrian Government, in the service of its basic plan to double the Hezbollah, is not showing much interest in creating the necessary facilities for them. Even during the recent clashes, which were the most intensive conflicts between the two parties, Hafiz al-Assad has made no move to stop the killing and has allowed conditions to continue which are naturally detrimental to the Hezbollah and the revolutionary guards.

Neither were noteworthy the measures taken by Hashemi Rafsanjani and agents of the Islamic regime's foreign ministry to stop the fighting, and it appeared that serious support for the Hezbollah and the Iranian revolutionary guard forces in that country had declined. Two weeks ago Nabih Berri, leader of the Amal, sent a message to Hashemi Rafsanjani asking him to remove the Iranian revolutionary guards from Lebanon. He emphasized in his message that the Iranian revolutionary guards in Lebanon are not obeying Hashemi Rafsanjani's orders, but instead are taking their orders from other elements in the Islamic Republic.

The 500,000 demonstrating in Sidon against the presence of Iranian revolutionary guards in the area gave unprecedented expression to their aversion and disgust with the Islamic Republic regime's warlike policies. According to Agence-France Press, a number of Shi'ite clergymen took action in the face of the demonstration of 500,000 against the Islamic Republic. They sent a letter of protest from the residents of South Lebanon to the Secretary-general of the United Nations and they asked the Security Council to put an end to the presence of the Islamic Republic's revolutionary guards in the south of that country. The demonstrators also chanted, "South Lebanon is Arab, not Iranian."

Political observers believe that Syria's refusal to cooperate with and support the Islamic Republic and the revolutionary guards stationed in this area persuaded the Tehran regime to give n.

Two weeks ago Brigadier General Kan'an, chief of the Syrian second column stationed in Lebanon, accused the Hezbollah forces of being in contact with Israeli forces and obtaining arms and ammunition from them for the war with the Amal.

The Lebanese Government's decision to send Lebanese army personnel to the south of that country was made after lengthy talks between members of the Tri-Partite Commission of the Ta'if Conference and Salim al-Huss and officials of the Syrian Government. Syrian officials were in full agreement with this measure and announced that there is no other way to solve the problems of that area. The newspaper AL-QABAS writes, Syrian officials confirmed that they are willing to equip Lebanese army forces with arms and ammunition for duty in south Lebanon. It was announced last week that the Syrian Army staff summoned revolutionary guard commanders stationed in Lebanon and informed them and the Hezbollah of Lebanon that the entry and positioning of the Lebanese Army in the southern areas is decisive and that nothing can prevent it, because current conditions are in the interest of no one. Syrian military officials warned the Iranian revolutionary guards and the Hezbollah of Lebanon that any confrontation with the Lebanese Army will be treated as an attack on the Syrian Army, and will be met with a vigorous response from the Syrian Army.

*Commentary Reflects on 'Hostility' to Nation

90AS0301A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] The support extended to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) by some 162 American Congressmen on Tuesday was not unexpected, according to political circles here.

The U.S. Congress' enmity towards the Islamic Republic dates back to the very day this Republic was born.

But rendering support to an organization whose very fabric is woven in terrorism and criminal activities, by a legislative body supposed to defend democracy makes a laughing stock of the American Congress.

The MKO makes no bones about going public on its terrorist activities and is indeed even proud of them! It has time and again admitted to having launched terrorist operations. Besides the MKO is a staunch follower of the Leninistic ideology which gives it a free hand to justify any means in the attainment of set ends. Now how do the

so-called champions of democracy come to support such an organization? Perhaps the grudge against Iran justifies such a shameful stance too.

Political observers here believe the Congressional support for the MKO would not have been rendered without a green light from the White House.

Iran displayed an immense amount of goodwill in securing the release of the two American hostages in Lebanon recently. Naturally reciprocation was expected. But not only the U.S. failed to show any goodwill, it actually escalated its hostile activities against Tehran. It seems that a certain wing is deliberately keeping the U.S. from reciprocating and actually trying to heighten the tension in the already very hostile relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile whenever the issue of the hostages and their freedom has been brought up, the Zionist state has launched its severest military attacks on Moslem targets. This Israel does solely in the hope of barring the freedom of hostages as has been clearly observed in recent days.

The American Congressmen, in their letter to the MKO, went so far as even criticizing a report last year by a special envoy of the United Nations envoy Reynaldo Gallindo Pohl for its findings to the contrary on human rights violations in Iran. This attack on a U.N. fact-finding mission and report is but a direct challenge aimed to weaken the world body and the person of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Reliable sources here even believe that Perez de Cuellar has been recently pushed by certain American pressure groups and the U.S. government not to send Gallindo Pohl to Iran for a reassessment of human rights in the country.

So the Congress obviously cannot accept an impartial report by special U.N. chief's envoy. How reliable then is this congress in opposition to a government? The truthful report, that shattered myths on several cases of human rights violations in Iran may even finally lead to the resignation of Gallindo Pohl.

As such the American Congress's attack on Iran, and this in support of a self-admittedly terrorist organization such as the MKO, has no value at all.

*BAYAN on Merger of Law Enforcement Forces

90AS0293A Tehran BAYAN in Persian No 2, Jun-Jul 90 pp 16-17

[Text] Following several discussion and examination sessions, the Majles ratified the bill to combine the law enforcement agencies, including the committees, Gendarmerie, police department and all the security forces of the ministries, the judicial police, and so on. According to this bill, the Ministry of Interior will be responsible for combining all the law enforcement forces within a maximum of one year and establishing an organization called the "law enforcement agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The issue of combining the armed forces was for the first time initiated by the central command headquarters of the forces in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] to mobilize all the resources of the country for war, which had been stated in the decree of the imam addressed to the acting general commander of the forces. It should be mentioned that after the appointment of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the acting general commander of the forces, in order to eliminate the shortages of the forces and reduce the financial (budgetary) problems of the war, the issue of the existence of a parallel organization with similar duties in the law enforcement and security agencies and consequently the waste of a significant capability in the headquarters of these forces was raised. For this reason, a general plan was presented to combine the military headquarters and forces, including the Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the law enforcement agencies, including the committees, Gendarmerie, and police. Based on the figures presented, if the plan is implemented, in addition to budgetary savings, part of the Armed Forces will be detached from the related unit and employed as combat forces. Hence, since that time, steps were taken by the command headquarters of the general forces in connection with combining the forces.

With the establishment of the command headquarters of the forces and the dissolution of the joint headquarters of the Army and the central headquarters of the IRGC, and the Majles ratification to combine the two ministries of the IRGC and Defense, some parts of the plan were implemented, but as regards the combining of forces, this was not done for various reasons. It seems that since the IRGC has always been discussed as the most significant military arm of the revolution and combining it with the traditional organizations (conventional army) would reduce its usefulness in defending the revolution at sensitive stages, adequate consideration was required, and this in itself served to delay the implementation of this stage of the plan. Moreover, the attacks of Iraq in 1367 [1988-89] and the involvement of the war officials in this situation in practice postponed the implementation of any plan. After the death of the imam, the view of the general command of the forces was to retain the forces in their present form in two separate agencies, and thus the combining of the law enforcement forces was no longer an issue. So, once again the IRGC and Army Headquarters were established retaining their past structure. In this new situation, the command headquarters of the general forces was retained with specific duties as the Supreme Command Headquarters of the General Forces.

Concerning the law enforcement agencies and considering the acceptance of Resolution 598, the fact that the preservation and gathering of forces was no longer an issue was discussed along with the war budget as reasons

for the combining of the forces. Later, work on the plan continued with the objective of "creating a single command in the law enforcement agencies and preventing similar activities of the law enforcement organizations in order to reform the bureaucratic system of the country."

The result of these actions after the approval of the Cabinet was presented with the request to the Majles of a priority one. The priority one was ratified, and it was sent to the joint committee of councils, internal affairs, and defense affairs of the country for their expert opinion. Ultimately, after six months of work, the bill was ratified with some changes on 23/2/69 [13 May 1990] by the members of the joint committee and placed on the agenda of the Majles.

For numerous reasons, including the varied composition of the law enforcement agencies and the views of these forces regarding how they should be combined and the mutual effects of the forces on each other resulted in the issue of combining the forces being discussed with special sensitivity both in the Majles and outside.

Considering the role of the committees in the course of the 11 years of the revolution as one of the institutions having had a significant influence on preserving the revolution and the regime, the reasons of the opponents to the combining of the forces in the sessions examining the general points of the bill mainly indicated their anxiety about the dissolution of the forces loyal to the revolution in the new organization and the ultimate elimination of one of the main institutions of the revolution. This group criticized the lack of sufficient expert opinion on this important issue and lack of clarity of the position and role of the faithful. Comparing the larger number of the forces and the expansiveness of the Gendarmerie and the police department, which naturally will bring about the dominant atmosphere, this issue appeared inevitable.

In the first session examining the general points of the bill on 9/3/69 [30 May 1990], one of the representatives said:

"Whenever there is talk of combining the forces, one of the institutions of the revolution suffers. Thoughts rapidly turn to the IRGC, the committee, the Construction Crusade, the propaganda agency, the office of propaganda, and so on, all of which are institutions established since the revolution. The issue of combining the forces is raised without discussing what the philosophy and goal of the committee essentially was. If the revolutionary forces are taken away from the Islamic revolution, the revolution will lose its arms and legs."

In the same session another opponent said: "All the committee forces are no more than 10-20 percent of the size of the Police Department and Gendarmerie. If you combine them, obviously the Police Department will devour the committee organization. If there is going to be any perpetuation of the revolution, the committee forces are more trustworthy. Not that I want to say the Police Department is not trustworthy. The Police Department is also good, but this brother who was born and raised with the revolution is more reliable in emergency situations."

The next opponent to the bill, pointing out that separation and incoherence cannot exist among the committed forces, added:

"Today the expert forces and not the committed forces are used in the country. We believe that the existence of the forces loyal to the revolution will be incongruous in the new organization."

The opponents also gave proposals with regard to the proposal to combine the forces, which included the duties of the law enforcement agencies. In this connection, one of the opponents of the bill said:

"The committee is by nature different from the Police Department. If there is any interference, it is in implementation. Then, let us correct the implementation procedures. Specify the duties of the committee. The committee's duties are clear. The law of the Police Department is also clear. In the same manner that you have conferred the duties related to narcotics to the committee, you can also confer issues related to intelligence to the committee and not allow it to be spread among all the institutions. The Police Department can attend to passports, traffic, fighting crime in the cities and other such issues."

On the other hand, the supporters of the bill mainly raised the issue of eliminating parallel organizations. In this connection, one of the supporters of the bill said:

"In our country, which has one single regime and a single leader, wherever there have been separations and parallel work, efforts have been made to unify them. It is necessary to eliminate the disunity and separation of the law enforcement agencies."

Concerning the command of a new organization and the anxieties that were expressed in this regard by opponents, only some general points were discussed by the defenders of the bill, and instead of determining the legal position of the forces committed to and believing in the revolution, they conferred these decisions in the bill to the executive officials. One of the representatives said in this regard:

"If the general points of the bill are ratified, we will ask the honorable minister of interior that the forces remain sincere and in practice be dominant."

In this connection, the spokesman of the committee asked in defense of the bill:

"Is the minister of interior unaware that the rule must be in the hands of the committed revolutionary forces? Is the government so unaware?"

One of the significant points during the discussions concerning the general points was the coordinated effort of the supporters of the bill to show that opposition to

the bill by the opponents and the defense of the Islamic revolution committee is a political issue. Hence, with such phrases as "the interests of the country," "national security," or "the fate of the Islamic revolution," instead of responding to the problems discussed, they would give advice and warnings to the opponents.

For example, the first supporter of the bill said:

"We must make our conscience be our guide, vote for what is in the best interests of the country and avoid political and expedient issues."

Another supporter said on 20/3/69 [10 June 1990]:

"I emphasize that we should not deal with worrisome political issues and truly consider the fate of the country and the Islamic revolution over our own concerns. We must not concern ourselves with problems that might be created in some minds."

In this connection, the spokesman of the joint committee added:

"We cannot gamble with the national security nor bring in political issues in this manner."

In the same vein, the author of "Present Criticism," ETTELA'AT, 20 Khordad 1369 [10 June 1990], went to the extent of calling the opponents of the bill, people who drown any economic, cultural and organizational decision in group politics, calling them obstacles in the path of constructiveness and discipline. The author writes: "A number of the honorable representatives tried to make the decision to combine the law enforcement agencies seem a political one. The vote of the Majles showed that the Majles considers the issue of combining the forces as a proper, calculated decision in full keeping with the guiding principles of the Five-Year Plan. Perhaps one thought worth keeping in mind is that any economic, cultural and organizational decision leans toward the policies of one group and creates obstacles to constructiveness, unity, and discipline."

It should be mentioned that after the ratification of the general points of the bill, the details and the articles of the bill should be normally examined and discussed in conformity with the report of the joint committee, which was the result of the less-than-expert work of the committee on the bill presented by the government after six months. But in the beginning, the corrected bill faced bylaws and warnings, and instead, the government bill was directly put on the agenda. According to the internal bylaws of the Majles, the committee must present the result of its work to the Majles within one month, which can be extended another month if requested. This means that in practice, the efforts of the committee to carry out expert work, which was emphasized by the supporters in the discussions on the general points of the bill as a strong point of the bill, remained ineffectual and without any results. But in the session for discussion and examination of the details of the bill, the proposals and amendments of the representatives made up for this shortcoming to a great extent.

Of course, certain changes were also made on the last day of discussion on the details of the bill, one was the change of the name of the new organization. According to reports published in the press, in the discussions dealing with the details of Article 1 of the bill and its notes, this agency was named "Law Enforcement Guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran." But in the last session on 30/3/69 [20 June 1990], another name was proposed by the representatives, and following opposing and supporting speeches, the previous ratification was nullified and the name of these forces was changed from "Law Enforcement Guards" to "Law Enforcement Agency of the Islamic Republic."

In any case, the point should be called to mind that although the elimination of parallel organizations was necessary in order to reform the administrative system of the country and must be attended to, the direction of such combinations, on the one side of which the fate of the supporters of the revolution, is at issue, and the clarity of the position and the situation of the revolutionary currents and forces in the new organization, which is a weakness of the existing bill, are of vital importance.

Since the preparation of the plan for the agency and organization and the bill concerning employment and other issues of the new agency have been conferred on the Ministry of Interior, observing and including priorities such as the values of the revolution along with issues such as discipline, experience and work history in the new organization, and specifying the position of the revolution forces are requirements to safeguard the survival of the revolution and ensure the stability and strength of the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic.

*BAYAN on Election of Majles Speaker

90AS0293B Tehran BAYAN in Persian No 2, Jun-Jul 90 p 18

[Text] The election of the board of directors of the Majles was held on Tuesday, 22/3/69 [12 June 1990], and the representatives of the Majles elected Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi once again as speaker of the Majles, with 155 votes. In this session, voting was by secret ballot, and of the total of 229 votes, Mr. Mehdi Karrubi had 155 votes and Mr. Nateq-Nuri 73 votes. Consequently, with more votes than previously, Mr. Karrubi was once again elected speaker of the Majles.

Among the votes in the election of the speaker of the Majles was only one abstention, which shows the clear opinion and lack of doubt in the minds of the representatives in regards to this election.

After the election of the speaker of the Majles, elections for deputy speaker began. The votes were then counted, and Mr. Hashemiyan won with 147 votes, Mr. Bayat received 124 votes, Mr. Movahhedi-Kermani got 91 votes, and Mr.

Ruhani received 88 votes. As a result, Messrs. Hoseyn Hashemiyan and Asadollah Bayat were elected as the first and second deputy of the Majles, respectively.

In these elections, the direction was also clear with regard to secretaries and commissionaires.

In other words, three lists were distinguishable, one of which was presented as the "Hezbollah Representatives Following the Imam's Line." The following composition was proposed for the board of directors:

Speaker: Hojjat ol-Eslam, the Honorable Mr. Karrubi
Deputy speakers: (1) Mr. Hoseyn Hashemiyan, (2) Mr. Asadollah Bayat

Secretaries:
1. Mr. 'Abbas Duzduzani
2. Mr. Rasul Montakhab-Nia 3. Mr. Hoseyn Mozaffarinzadeh
3. Mr. Morteza Alviri
4. Mr. Ebrahim Asgharzadeh
5. Seyyed Mohammad Razavi (Yazd)

Commissionaires:
1. Seyyed 'Abdolvahed Musavi-Lari
2. Mr. Morteza Katira'i
3. Mr. Nurollah 'Abedi

Another list was presented as the "Followers of Guardianship of the Religious Jurist," and the following were proposed:

Speaker: Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri
Deputy speakers:
Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Hasan Ruhani
Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi-Kermani

Commissionaires:
1. Seyyed Jalil Seyyedzadeh
2. Gholam 'Abbas Za'eri
3. Masha'allah Heydari-Moqaddam

Secretaries:
1. Seyyed Reza Akrami
2. Seyyed Hamid Chitchiyan
3. Dr. Shahrzad
4. Hoseyni-Shahrudi
5. Beytollah Ja'fari
6. 'Abdolkarim Ahmadnezhad

The third list, titled the "Candidates of the Assembly of Independent Representatives," was presented as follows:

Speaker:
Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi-Kermani
Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Hasan Ruhani

Commissionaires:
Brother Seyyed Jalil Seyyedzadeh
Brother Gholam 'Abbas Za'eri
Brother Masha'allah Heydari-Moqaddam

Secretaries:
Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Reza Akrami
Engineer Hamid Chitchian
Dr. Mohammad Karim Shahrzad
Engineer Mohammad Majdara
Dr. 'Abbas 'Ali Zali
Brother Beytollah Ja'fari-Lur

After the votes were counted, it became clear that those elected were all from the first list, which turned the great hopes that the right-wing faction had gained in the recent months to despair, at least in the area of influence over the board of directors of the Majles.

Even the way the proposed lists were signed could have a negative effect on the representatives, because the first list stated pursuit of the imam's line as its main objective, which naturally includes the sacred principle of the guardianship of the religious jurisconsult.

But the second group signed: Followers of the Guardianship of the Religious Jurisconsult. Considering their characteristics and history, more than indicating their true belief in the guardianship of the religious jurisconsult, it was a sign of the continued decision of this faction to take advantage of this principle. For this reason, not only were the speaker and deputy speakers retained, but they received more votes than before. And in the composition of commissionaires and secretaries as well, changes contrary to the views of this faction appeared, and on the whole the board of directors became more coherent.

In addition to what was mentioned, the following factors could also be considered as at the root of these elections:

The harsh tone of the editorial article in RESALAT toward Mr. Karrubi after his speech about the danger of negating the imam and the speech of Mr. Azari-Qomi at the Tehran Friday prayers.

The open attacks of RESALAT on the economic positions of the imam's line under various pretexts and the accusations of a number of the distinguished figures in the Majles, some of whom were incidentally on the board of directors. Had RESALAT succeeded in distorting their reputation, the outcome of the election of the board of directors would have been different, whereas the reactions were quite the contrary and even resulted for the first time in 140 representatives of the Majles condemning the position of RESALAT clearly and firmly and asking the imam's son to:

"Place the blessed letter of the imam concerning the destructive policy of this publication at the disposal of the Majles so as to reveal to the public from the pen of the Imam the true nature of this newspaper and its operators, so that the people—who are always present on the scene—will recognize these gentlemen well."

The vehement propaganda pressure against the representatives of the imam's line at the time of the Romanian events, posing questions to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Majles and labeling those who regarded this issue as a simple legal question to be against the guardianship of religious jurisprudence. At that time, also, the behavior of the above-mentioned faction

resulted in a negative reaction in the representatives, and the harsher the accusations became, the more the number of the signatures of those who posed questions increased.

The behavior of some of the elements affiliated with this faction toward the representatives at the time when the issue of the hajj negotiations was discussed in a letter by the representatives, in which the signatories were accused of being "unjust."

The point to be mentioned is that the third list only differed from the second one as regards to two secretaries, which indicated the coalition of the two minority factions in the Majles on this issue and which could not change the sensitivities created in the representatives of the imam's line against the right-wing faction.

And the final point is that such victories make the responsibility of the faction of the imam's line heavier, increasing the public expectation to advance the ideals of the Imam and making them responsible for monitoring their individual and collective actions and positions more carefully and avoiding mistakes that could serve as an excuse to attack the faction of the imam's line in the Majles.

Nepal & Bhutan

Charter Flight To Evacuate Stranded Nationals

BK2808005890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1750 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 27 (AFP)—The Nepalese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monday chartered a Royal Nepal Airlines plane to airlift 130 Nepalese stranded in Amman for several days. The Nepalese nationals had been working in Kuwait and crossed into Jordan after the Iraqi military invasion of that country on August 2.

Nepal does not have residential embassies in Jordan, Kuwait and Iraq. Officially only 248 Nepalese were registered as working in Kuwait but employment offices here unofficially claimed about 800 Nepalese had been working there for several years, with an additional 2,800 working in other Gulf states. Nepalese ambassador to Cairo Bhogendranath Rimal, who is also accredited to Jordan and Iraq, has already reached Amman to facilitate the departure of the stranded Nepalese. Nepal had earlier denounced the military invasion of Kuwait.

Soviets Arrive on First Direct Aeroflot Flight

BK2608040290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1826 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 25 (AFP)—The Soviet national carrier, Aeroflot, on Saturday inaugurated its first direct Moscow to Kathmandu flight, officials said. Aeroflot will start with one weekly roundtrip flight between the two capitals and later plans to add another weekly flight linking the Soviet Union with this mountainous kingdom.

According to an agreement signed in Moscow last year, the Nepalese national carrier, Royal Nepal Airlines, was also given rights to open the same number of flights as Aeroflot. But officials here said the Nepalese airline would begin operations only in early 1992 after acquiring more 757-200s. Arriving on Saturday's inaugural flight was Soviet Civil Aviation Deputy Minister Viktor Gorlov, along with 84 other passengers, officials said. Mr. Gorlov was leading a 14-member Soviet official delegation that was greeted at Tribhuvan airport here by Nepalese Tourism Secretary D.P. Gautam.

King Imposes Curfew To Foil Protest March

BK2508144090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 25 (AFP)—The king of Bhutan has imposed a curfew and deployed troops to foil a planned protest march by several thousand Bhutanese pro-democracy activists, a Bhutanese Peoples Party (BPP) spokesman said Saturday. The march is to start Sunday from the Indian township of Gaigaon, crossing into Bhutan through the border town of Phuntsoling, said spokesman S.K. Neupane.

Mr. Neupane, reached by telephone in Nepal's Jhapa District close to the Bhutanese border, said 4,000 Royal Bhutanese Army personnel "in police uniforms" had sealed off the border crossing at Phuntsoling. Some 10,000 Bhutanese of Nepalese origin crossed into Jaigon several days ago to join "the peace march demanding full-fledged democratic and human rights, and establishment of a democratic system of government," he said.

At least 25 per cent of Bhutan's 1.4 million people are Hindus of Nepalese origin, while Bhuddhism is the majority religion. King Jigme Singye Wangchuk presides over what is officially called a democratic monarchy. Mr. Neupane appealed to India to support the democracy movement, saying if the struggle was prolonged the number of Bhutanese of Nepalese origin escaping to India could cause problems in the future.

The spokesman charged that ethnic Nepalese students in Sanchi High School had been locked up in hostels without food, water and electricity, and roped together to prevent them crossing the border to join the march. In a warning to the Bhutanese king, Mr. Neupane said the situation in Bhutan could get out of control if reforms were not forthcoming.

The Bhutanese Students Union in a seperate statement appealed to other student bodies worldwide to support their fight against the "racist and cruel government of Bhutan." A Bhutanese opposition delegation addressing a press conference in Kathmandu earlier this week said the current politcal system in Bhutan was intolerable.

"Those raising their voices against the Bhutanese king by demanding human rights and political freedom are inhumanly tortured and hot irons are pressed on their naked bodies, Mr. D. P. Kafle, a BPP spokesman said. "While

talking to Bhutanese ministers or officials we have to look down at their feet and leave without showing our backs to them", he said. "When the Bhutanese people appear before the king they have to cover their face with a handkerchief so that no bad odour or disease may be transferred to him," he said.

Official Denies Reports of Unrest

BK2708124290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1230 GMT 27 Aug 90

[text] New Delhi, Aug 27 (AFP)—Bhutan's Embassy in India Monday denied a curfew had been imposed in the mountain kingdom and rejected reports of unrest. The embassy was reacting to reports originating from Kathmandu saying the Bhutanese king had deployed troops and imposed a curfew to foil a planned protest march by pro-democracy activists.

A Bhutanese People's Party spokesman Saturday said several thousand Bhutanese had crossed into India to join a march into southern Bhutan calling for democracy in the country. The embassy said southern Bhutan is home to a large number of citizens of Nepalese origin who complain of racial, cultural and economic discrimination and "want to give the impression that there is a movement against the king." "Bhutan is in fact very peaceful," the spokesman said.

Bhutan, a country of 1.3 million people wedged between China and India, has diplomatic ties with Kathmandu although its ambassador to Nepal is based in New Delhi.

Pakistan

Gulf Crisis To Cost $500 Million Annually

BK2608042290 Hong Kong AFP in English 2033 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 25 (AFP)—Pakistan will suffer an annual loss of about 500 million dollars in foreign remittances due to the exodus of 90,000 nationals from Kuwait, Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz has said. The minister told business executives on Friday that the unforeseen repatriation after Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait would lower the country's foreign exchange earnings by 20 per cent, the executives said.

Remittances from about half a million Pakistani workers in the Middle East and the oil-rich Gulf states were this year estimated at 1.8 billion dollars.

Experts here said the decline would go up to 700 million dollars after the expected return of more than 50,000 Pakistanis from Iraq. Mr. Aziz said the care-taker government of Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, which took over after the removal of Benazir Bhutto four days after the invasion, was trying hard not to raise oil prices in the country.

Pakistan was buying 45 per cent of its daily requirement of 80,000 barrels from Kuwait on concessionary rates before the invasion. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have promised to consider Pakistan's request to meet its oil needs on the terms Islamabad had with the ousted Kuwaiti Government, diplomatic sources here said. If Pakistan was forced to buy at market price, it would have to add an extra 200 million dollars to its oil bill, Mr. Aziz said. He said that the interim government, installed until promised elections on October 24, unfortunately had to face the global economic effects of the Gulf crisis. He said his country was also facing an unsatisfactory situation on its eastern borders with India. The government had to increase its defence expenditure by 100 million dollars amid heightening tension over a Moslem separatist campaign in the disputed Kashmir region, he said.

Gallup Says Pakistanis Oppose U.S. Troops

BK2708114290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1119 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 27 (AFP)—A large majority of Pakistanis are opposed to the presence of U.S. forces on Saudi Arabian soil, a private survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan revealed Monday. However, the nation overwhelmingly supports the Pakistani Government's decision to send troops to defend Saudi Arabia against a possible Iraqi attack following the August 2 invasion of Kuwait, the survey said.

The August 17 survey polled some 700 people in all four provincial capitals. Some 62 per cent opposed the presence of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia with only 23 per cent supporting the idea. Fifteen per cent had no opinion, it said. But 74 per cent backed the government's decision to send troops to the oil-rich kingdom, it said. Only 11 per cent opposed the move, while 15 per cent had no opinion. Gallup said the respondents were scientifically selected from a cross section of society and included people from all economic, educational and linguistic backgrounds.

Pakistan was the first non-Arab Islamic state to commit troops to Saudi Arabia amid the deepening crisis in the Gulf. The size of the contingent and nature of its military assistance is to be determined by an army mission already in Riyadh as part of the U.S.-led buildup in the region. Officials say the troops will be deployed exclusively to protect the holiest Moslem shrines in Mecca and Medina, both in Saudi Arabia. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is touring several Gulf states to assess the situation in the region.

More Nationals Return From Kuwait, Iraq

PIA Operating 'Special Flights'

BK2708120290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Another batch of over 1,000 Pakistanis from Riyadh and Amman returned home today on board four PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] special flights. These Pakistanis had reached there from Kuwait and

Iraq. PIA would be operating five special flights tomorrow from Amman and Riyadh to transport about 1,300 Pakistanis back home.

Repatriation Subcommittee Meets

BK2808030090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Special arrangements have been made both within and outside the country to bring back Pakistanis arriving in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Turkey from Kuwait. This was announced in Islamabad yesterday at a meeting of the subcommittee set up to supervise the repatriation of Pakistanis stranded in Kuwait. The subcommittee was informed that the program for dispatching naval ships to Aqaba has been finalized. A task force cell has been set up and the railway department has been asked to reserve 450 seats on trains for those that will be repatriated. The subcommittee was also informed that the government will bear all travel expenses of these Pakistanis.

The Pakistan International Airlines has brought home 6,000 Pakistanis who had arrived in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Turkey. Another 12,000 Pakistanis are waiting for transportation home.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Presence in Gulf

BK2708091290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "A U.S. Waterloo?"]

[Text] The United States has finally had its way in getting the UN Security Council to adopt the Resolution empowering the interdiction of naval vessels to ensure that trade sanctions imposed against Iraq are not violated. The Security Council Resolution to this effect was passed after protracted differences about the propriety of such measures between the United States on the one hand and primarily the USSR on the other. However, the absence of clearly stipulated UN authority to employ force for the purpose had not even earlier deterred the United States from employing its military muscle, albeit symbolically, in a couple of instances. At any rate, Washington was quite apparently interested to get its draft Resolution approved from the Security Council, not so much to give legitimacy to its unilateral military acts as to paint the Gulf conflict in its desired hue of Iraq versus the rest of the world. That the Soviet Union had serious reservations about the Security Council's adopting a more hostile posture, was a reflection of the sagacious path followed by Moscow in the context of a highly volatile situation in the region.

However, all that is by now a thing of the past. The United States appears to be in no mood to give sanity a chance. There have, of late, been quite a few indications to the effect that the United States is itching to take on Iraq, irrespective of all real or potential openings which could help defuse the crisis and avert a military confrontation. President Bush has, of course, been rejecting out of hand all proposals emanating either from Baghdad or from any other source to de-escalate the tension which Washington itself has systematically mounted since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2. At the same time, Washington has in this case been playing down on the acute sensitivity it would otherwise display on the question of American citizens' safety in a hostile environment. For once, the United States seems to have discounted the safety of thousands of its citizens entrapped in Iraq and Kuwait, as a factor relevant to the chalking out of its military strategy.

The other disturbing shift in US approach to the Gulf situation relates to Washington's self-proclaimed aims and objectives. Not many were convinced of the imminence of Iraqi threat to Saudi Arabia when the United Stated pre-empted in the first place, all intra-Arab efforts to find a peaceful, negotiated settlement to the issue. Thus, the United States proceeded to secure for itself a well-entrenched and formidable military presence not only in Saudi Arabia but also at the other major outlet for oil produced in the region, at the mouth of the Gulf of Oman. But when President Saddam Husayn followed up his protestations of having no hostile designs against Saudi Arabia with the actual withdrawal of his elite troops from Kuwait's border with the Kingdom, Washington found itself in a real quandary. However, nothing could outwit the actual intentions of US strategists. The justification for contemplated US action against Iraq was quickly changed from a possible hostile act by Baghdad against Saudi Arabia to any provocative move by Saddam against American military presence or interests in the region!

The new-found rationale for hostility was apparently tied to the then emerging situation relating to Iraq's notice requiring all foreign missions in Kuwait to close down by August 24. But Saddam Husayn has once again given the slip. He would not touch the skeleton US staff left behind in the American Embassy in Kuwait. So, where does the US go from here? Logically, back home. There is still a chance that the precarious drift of the situation can be chacked at the precipice through joint action by the Arab and other Muslim countries in the region, with the full backing as also the possible involvement of the United Nations. The first shot is yet to be fired. That can and must be avoided. It is about time the United States disabused itself of the notion that the ensuing catastrophe would be any less damaging to its own interests than the Vietnam trauma from which the American society is yet to recover. But then destiny has its own way of dragging a Napolean to his Waterloo.

Amendment Made to Election Disqualification Rules

BK2708164090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Through a notification issued today, the federal government has amended the Parliament and Provincial Assembly Members Disqualification Rules of 1990, which empowers the referring authority to be represented by a law officer or an advocate at the special court

and the defendant by a lawyer. They will have to arrange for their representatives before the session of the Supreme Court.

IJI Parties To Run Under One Banner

BK2808045090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] has unanimously decided to contest the upcoming elections under one banner and one election symbol. This was announced by the IJI chief, Nawaz Sharif, at the end of the meeting among leaders of the IJI constituent parties in Lahore last night.

Giving details of some important decisions made by the meeting, the IJI chief said a five-member supreme council has been set up to make the final decisions on the allocation of election tickets to IJI candidates. The council will consist of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the prime minister and chief of the National People's Party; Pakistan Muslim League President Mohammad Khan Junejo; Amir of Jamaat-i-Islami Qazi Hussain Ahmad; Senator Maulana Samiul Haq of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam-Darkhwasti Group; and the IJI chief. He expressed the hope that the council will accomplish its task by 3 September. Nawaz Sharif also announced that the meeting has decided to appoint North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan as president of the NWFP wing of the IJI. It has also decided to give IJI tickets to all members of the dissolved assemblies. Nawaz Sharif added, however, that those who have changed their political loyalty in the dissolved assemblies will not be given IJI tickets.

Khan Ready To Work With Bhutto If Reelected

BK2808093690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0921 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Aug 28 (AFP)—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan says he is ready to share power with Benazir Bhutto, whom he dismissed as prime minister earlier this month, if she wins in the general elections scheduled for October. "I made it clear to Benazir at the time of dismissing her government that I will be the first person to welcome her back to office if she is returned to power by the masses," Mr. Ishaq khan told reporters Monday in neighboring Rawalpindi.

In reports carried Tuesday by local newspapers, he reiterated that "free, impartial, fair" elections for the National Assembly—which he also dissolved as he sacked Ms. Bhutto on August 6—would take place on October 24 as promised. But he eluded questions on possible legal action against Ms. Bhutto after her recent accusations that the army had masterminded her ouster.

"She has been speaking against me and against many others. What can I do?" Mr. Ishaq Khan said. "I cannot say at the moment that a case against her for issuing statements against the armed forces will be initiated." The president was also questioned Ms. Bhutto's claims that he had indulged in political "horse-trading" by buying off members of parliament loyal to her.

"Horses are free to graze anywhere," Mr. Ishaq Khan said. "This is a time for free grazing." The president, a veteran politician who served under the military regime of Ms. Bhutto's archrival, the late general Muhammed Ziaul Haq, had had harsh words for the ex-premier when he sacked her. He accused her of corruption, incompetence and abuse of power as he dismissed her by evoking constitutional amendments enacted by Gen. Zia. [passage omitted]

Seven More Ministers Added to Cabinet

BK2708062990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Seven more ministers have been included in the federal cabinet. The the new ministers are: Dr. (Noor Jahan Panezoi), Chaudhury Amir Hussain, Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Gilani, Mr. Islam Nabi, Mir Muhammad Nasib Mengal, Makhdhum Shafiqur Zaman, and Qazi Abdul Majid Abid.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan administered the oath of office to the new ministers at the Presidency in Islamabad this morning. Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi was present at the occasion.

Islamabad Reports on Rafsanjani-Yaqub Meeting

BK2208041590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has expressed total understanding and harmony in the recent change in the government in Pakistan and has prayed for its progress and prosperity. During his meeting with the Iranian president in Tehran, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan apprised the president of the recent change in the government per constitutional norms and of the determination of the caretaker government to hold elections in the country as scheduled. The current situation in the Gulf was also discussed during the meeting, and both sides noted that their stands were identical. The Iranian president assured that his country would provide all possible assistance to the Pakistanis returning home from Kuwait via Iran.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has now arrived in Amman, where he will hold talks with the Jordanian leaders on the Gulf crisis.

Premier Nominates Azad Kashmir Council Members

BK2408154590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, who is also the chairman of the Azad Jammu Kashmir [AJK] Council, nominated five caretaker federal ministers as members of the council. They are: Retired Lieutenant General Abdul

Majid Malik, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Sartaj Aziz, Elahi Bux Soomro, and Malik Mohammad Naim.

Retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik will also be the federal minister-in-charge of AJK Council's secretariat.

Minister Reiterates Support to Kashmiris

BK2708151290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, federal minister for petroleum, who is also in charge of the Azad Jammu Kashmir Council Secretariat, has reiterated that Pakistan will continue its moral, political, and diplomatic assistance to the people of Kashmir in the struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination. Addressing a news conference in Muzaffarabad this afternoon, he said Pakistan wants the Kashmir issue to be settled as per the UN resolutions, and the Simla agreement in no way is a hindrance in it.

President of Azad Kashmir Reelected 27 Aug

Defeats Mahmud Chaudhry

BK2708082990 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] A sitting president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, was reelected at the joint sitting of the legislative assembly and the Azad Kashmir council in Muzaffarabad today. Out of the total of 55 votes polled, he bagged 32 against his rival Barrister Sultan Mahmud Chaudhry, who secured 23 votes.

Congratulated by Ishaq Khan

BK2708150490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan visited Saddam Qayyum Khan, enquired about his health, and congratulated him on his reelection as president of Azad Jammu Kashmir. At the meeting, which lasted the interval between the evening and night prayers, both leaders exchanged views on occupied Kashmir, especially on the atrocities perpetrated on the freedom fighters. They expressed their opinion that the Kashmir issue is being understood in a better way today and the struggle of the Kashmiri people has resulted in increased solidarity and support as well as growing sympathy to their cause. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan showed interest in the health of Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan and prayed for his speedy recovery.

Premier Comments on Defeat

BK2708154890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Muzaffarabad today, Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Mumtaz Hussain Rathod has said the defeat of his party candidate in the presidential elections is in no way a failure of the parliamentary system in Azad Jammu Kashmir.

Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan, opposition leader in the Azad Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly, has described the reelection of Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan to the presidentship as a good augury to the freedom struggle.

Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, noted Kashmiri leader and member of the Legislative Assembly, has assured of his full cooperation toward every effort for the independence of occupied Kashmir.

Sindh Governor Meets Ishaq Khan on Election

BK2708151890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Sindh Governor Mahmud A. Haroon called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in the President's House this afternoon. They discussed issues pertaining to Sindh Province and matters concerning forthcoming general elections.

A former federal minister, Abdul Hafiz Pirzada, also called on the president. They exchanged views on the political situation in the country with particular reference to Sindh.

Mustafa Khar Says Bhutto 'Incapable' as Leader

BK2508162190 Lahore THE NATION in English 25 Aug 90 p 10

[Excerpt] Lahore—Caretaker Federal Water and Power Minister Ghulam Mustafa Khar declared himself the true heir of the late Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto at the Workers Convention and asked deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to give him the reigns of the party for 60 days after which he could ensure PPP [Pakistan People's Party] victory in the three provinces and the Centre.

What the seemingly ill Mr. Khar started as short speech lasted more than 70 minutes at the convention which was not bigger than an ordinary street corner meeting, in Gulberg on Friday. Amidst half-hearted sloganeering about the 'lion of Punjab', Mr. Khar focussed his speech on proving that 'the Bhutto ladies' were incapable of running the party and only he had the guts to confront the establishment.

When an old PPP jiyala [worker] among the audience questioned his claim by yelling, "can Jatoi do it?" he retorted sharply, "not at all, it's only I who can do it".

The convention was a bad show in many respects. Except for a few lesser known PPP figures like former MNA [Member of National Assembly] Afzal Randhawa, Begum Nasira Malik and Begum Sardar Khadim Hussain, the convention was conspicuous for absence of PPP luminaries, who were expected to attend the function. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Accuses Government on Karachi Arrests

BK2508081190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0719 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Karachi, Aug 25 (AFP)—Ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto charged Saturday that the arrest of dozens of her party activists here was an attempt to rig planned elections as police said they rounded up 20 more suspects in Wednesday's bloody sniper attacks. In a statement, Ms. Bhutto accused the caretaker government of trying to "create a state of panic and pave the way for rigging of the coming elections."

Twenty-nine people were killed here and more than 60 injured when snipers riding in vehicles attacked camps of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), which represents settlers from India and is associated with the new administration. Police said they carried out further raids on suspected activists Friday and detained 20 more people, bringing the total arrested since Wednesday to 52, most belonging to Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

The caretaker government accused the PPP of direct involvement in Wednesday's attacks, while Ms. Bhutto condemned them. PPP sources said police conducted different raids Friday including one without a search warrant at a party establishment where they allegedly abused those present.

Ms. Bhutto said police also raided houses of figures associated with the PPP, including former national assembly member Syed Qurban Ali Shah. "Doubts have been raised in the minds of the people about the claim of the caretaker government that elections would be held fairly and freely," she said. "Such intimidatory tactics should stop," said Ms. Bhutto, who was sacked abruptly on August 6 by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who promised elections on October 24.

Bhutto Government Implicated in 1989 Shooting

BK2708053990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] The federal government has released the report by the commission investigating the Islamabad shooting incident on 12 February 1989 comprising Mr. Justice Ejaz Musa. The report pertains to police shooting at demonstrators protesting against the sacrilegious book, The Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie. The report said that the procession was religious in nature and devoid of any political consideration. It observed that the administration should have shown patience and restraint in taking such an extreme step, in view of the sensitive nature of the issue. The situation should have been handled with persuasion and wisdom. The loss of human lives could then have been prevented or minimized.

The report added that most of the dead and injured were struck with weapons used by the police. The administration's version that the police had fired into the air is hardly realistic. It said the police could have directed shots toward people's legs instead of vital body parts.

The commission recommended to the government payment of a minimum of 100,000 rupees to the legal heirs of each of the dead; 50,000 rupees to each person with shooting injuries; and 20,000 rupees to each person injured by any other weapon.

Special Court To Try Bhutto, Ex-Ministers

BK2608100290 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 25—A special cell, set up at Aiwan-i-Sadr [President House] and headed by Federal Minister without portfolio, Mr. Roedad Khan, has initially identified 14 cases against PPP [Pakistan People's Party] ministers as well as the deposed Prime Minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, to be tried by the Special Court No. 1 "very shortly", it was reliably learnt here on Saturday.

The caretaker government has reportedly been informed by the authorities of the Special Cell that all required evidence against the 14 ministers for their alleged involvement in corruption and nepotism have been gathered.

Sources disclosed that in addition to the ousted Prime Minister, the cases against former minister for petroleum Jahangir Badr, interior minister Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan, commerce minister Syved Faisal Saleh Hayat and state minister for finance Ehsanul Haq Piracha had been "finalised for immediate trial".

"We have no plan to conduct inquiries against 100 former legislators as has been reported in the press. If 20 to 25 persons are "convicted" it will serve our purpose, a source close to the Special Cell told this correspondent.

Most of the ministers and former legislators of the PPP are reported to have been forewarned by the Special Cell to be ready for trial. The sources said there would be cases of corruption and nepotism against a few former opposition legislators as well.

However, these sources asserted that though the ousted Prime Minister "shall have to face the Special Court, she may not necessarily have to be disqualified". They said that the establishment did not want to earn a "bad name" by keeping Ms. Bhutto "out of the game".

Mr. Roedad Khan, when contacted on telephone about the number of cases begin prepared, said: "I cannot tell you the details right now and that you would know about them at an appropriate time".

He said the task of accountability was being geared up, keeping in view the time constraint with elections due on Oct 24.

Sources in the ministry of finance, however, did not agree that it was an easy task to collect sufficient proof against anybody involved in corruption or nepotism.

"We have informed the authorities who sought proof against former PPP ministers that it was not an easy matter collecting such evidence because when officials commit wrongs they do not leave any visible tracks behind. Moreover, no official would like to go for such blatent irrengularity that could trap him at any stage", the sources said.

Two Civilians Hurt in Indian Shooting in Leepa

BK2708090890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Aug 26—The Indian army opened fire on civilians near the line of control in Leepa valley without provocation today, injuring one person and a young boy, Syed Nisar Hussein Shah. The firing was continuing in Bijli Dar Antilian, Ghai Pura and Ban Mola villages till filing of the report.

It is reported that at the time of cutting corn and grass the Indian army starts firing on the villages. The civilians have been forced to leave villages. The people of the affected areas have appealed to the UN to probe the serious situation.

Businesses, University Observe Strike in Quetta

BK2608043090 Hong Kong AFP in English 2042 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Aug 25 (AFP)—Businesses remained shut Saturday in five cities of Pakistan's Eastern Balochistan Province in response to a joint strike call by two left-wing groups, witnesses and reports said. The Awami National Party (ANP) and the Pashtun Students Federation (PSF) called the strike to protest the killing of four people when police fired on a student procession demanding the release of some detained colleagues.

The Balochistan University and all affiliated colleges also remained shut and witnesses and reports said the strike was observed in Quetta as well as four other cities. The Balochistan Bar Association at a meeting here demanded an immediate judicial probe into Thursday's police firing. A joint meeting was held by the ANP and the PSF to condemn the firing after which the participants paraded through the streets carrying black flags.

Sri Lanka

LTTE-Government Fighting Continues in Jaffna

AFP Reviews Situation

BK2508082590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Colombo, Aug 25 (AFP)—Heavily armed Tamil guerrillas, firing mortars and machine guns from newly dug trenches, have stalled the advance of government troops to a strategic islet off the northern town of Jaffna, military officials here said Saturday. They said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas had lost at least 57 men when helicopter gunships strafed them at three places in the war-torn Jaffna peninsula during the last 24 hours.

One soldier was also killed and 18 police and military personnel were wounded when the rebels pounded a police station outside the peninsula with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, they added. They said 15 rebels attacked a police post at Pallachena in the eastern district of Ampara and seriously wounded one officer and a constable, while a rebel was shot dead by police commandos in the neighbouring Kallar area.

Police conducting search operations for Sinhalese rebels shot dead four members of the People's Liberation Front (JVP) at Deniyaya, deep in the south in the district of Matara, and recovered some arms and ammunition, they said. Suspected JVP rebels, who have been trying to regroup taking advantage of the war in the northeast, shot dead a Buddhist priest in the eastern Ampara district late Friday, they said.

The JVP, which had been carrying on a violent anti-government campaign, was crushed when its top leaders were killed in security operations in late 1989. The officials said troops advancing along a narrow causeway from Kayts islet to Mandativu, another islet close to the LTTE stronghold of Jaffna town, were meeting stiff resistance from rebels in newly dug trenches and bunkers on the causeway.

Helicopter-borne troops had landed on the rebel-controlled Kayts Wednesday and quickly overcame rebel resistance before advancing on Mandativu. Control of Mandativu is vital for the security forces to break the LTTE siege on an army camp inside a 300-year-old colonial fort in Jaffna town because it would facilitate movement of men and material to the camp along the causeway.

Some 200 police and security force personnel, trapped inside the fort since fighting broke out between the LTTE and the security forces on June 11, have been exchanging mortar and rocket fire almost daily with the rebels entrenched in the town. The LTTE said its cadres were launching attacks on the "enemy force" to prevent their advance from Kayts to Jaffna town.

An LTTE statement issued in London and released here late Friday alleged that air force planes had "indiscriminately" bombed the whole of Kayts island, while naval gunships, positioned off the coast, continuously shelled "heavily populated areas." "Many people are feared dead and houses and properties damaged," it said without giving details. It said the Sri Lankan Air Force, continuing random bombing of other parts of Jaffna peninsula, had completely destroyed Maruthanamadam market. "Civilian casualties from Point Pedro, Valvettithurai and Manthikal are the heaviest compared to other areas," it added.

There was no immediate official comment on the LTTE charge, but Junior Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne had earlier confirmed bombing of what he called "selected LTTE targets" by air force planes. The statement said troops who ventured out of the Kankesanthurai camp were trapped in an LTTE mine field and rebel cadres lying in ambush opened fire on them. "The soldiers were forced back into their camp after suffering heavy casualties," it added. LTTE fighters also intercepted troops who moved out of the naval base at Karainagar, the statement said.

Military officials said helicopter gunships killed 30 "terrorists," as the LTTE guerrillas are offically branded, when they destroyed four vehicles carrying them in the Velanai area of Kayts. In another incident in the adjacent Saravani area, 23 rebels were killed when the boat in which they were fleeing across a lagoon was destroyed by a helicopter gunship. Four more "terrorists" moving on push-bicycles were killed when a helicopter gunship fired on them in the same area, they added.

58 LTTE Reported Killed

BK2508091490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0800 GMT 25 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 25 (LANKAPUVATH)—58 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were reported killed in continuing clashes between security forces and the LTTE terrorists in the northeast in the last twenty-four hours. Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that the security forces continued to clear areas in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Air Force planes destroyed four vehicles in which LTTE terrorists were travelling, and killed 30 terrorists in an attack in Nittukulam in the Jaffna District. In another incident in the same district [in] Saravanai 23 LTTE terrorists were killed when the security forces destroyed a boat. The sources told that the government helicopter gunships killed 4 more terrorists in a nearby area.

In an isolated incident in the east, one LTTE terrorist was killed during a clearing operation. LTTE terrorists continued to fire at the Elephant Pass, Paranthan and Mullaitivu security detachments. No casualties were reported. The Jaffna Peninsula, Kilinochchi and the Mullaitivu districts remain under curfew.

Helicopters Kill 150 LTTE

BK2508113290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] An Air Force helicopter killed about 150 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists who were crossing the Kopai causeway in the north. According to unofficial sources, they were riding motorcycles and bicycles when the helicopter gunship located them and descended to about 50 feet above ground in open lands and opened fire. The attack occurred about seven km from the Jaffna Fort. Troops also destroyed eight terrorist bunkers at Kayts. They captured the Kayts ferry used by the terrorist. Ten terrorists were killed during the attack launched by the troops near (Akawadi).

According to military sources, the Jaffna Fort, KKS [Kankesanturai], and Paranthan Army camps came under mortar and small arms fire on Thursday night. There were no reports of troop casualties. The Mankulam Army Camp was attacked on Thursday night. The fuel pump and buildings were damaged and two soldiers injured. Six terrorists were seriously wounded and another killed when the Army returned the fire.

Forces Accused of Strafing Civilians

BK2508162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Excerpts] In Sri Lanka, 58 suspected LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants are reported killed since yesterday by the security forces in their drive against the LTTE in the northeast. [passage omitted] The LTTE is reported to be continuing their attacks on army detachments in the Elephant Pass, Paranthan, and Mullaittivu.

The People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, PLOTE, in a statement in Colombo accused security forces of indiscriminate strafing of civilian targets in the northeast. PLOTE has been backing the Sri Lankan Government drive against the LTTE. In a statement in Madras, the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] appealed to the Indian Government to bring diplomatic pressure on the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE to stop their fighting and save the lives of the civilians in the Tamil areas of the island.

90 More LTTE Said Killed

BK2608091490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 90 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants and three soldiers were killed in continued fighting between the security forces and the LTTE in the northeast.

Official reports say that the Army has recaptured Mandaitivu Island after stiff resistance from the LTTE. During the operation, 56 militants and two soldiers were killed and seven others wounded. Security forces have also recovered 28 bodies of the militants. LTTE militants continued to attack Jaffna, Kankesanthurai, Elephant Pass, and Paranthan towns. One policeman died in Jaffna Fort. In Amparai, and Batticaloa areas, seven other militants were killed in separate incidents.

Government Pushes Toward Peninsula

BK2708091890 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0841 GMT 27 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 27 August (LANKAPUVATH)—Government troops pushing southwards from the tip of the northern peninsula known as Kayts have since Saturday commenced demolishing LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres. They have also today taken Mandativu and are pushing towards taking over the Jaffna Peninsula.

The government has moved sufficient troops to take over the peninsula. However, security sources told LANKAPUVATH that all measures were being taken to protect civilians being used as human shields by the LTTE.

Troops Consolidate in Mandaitivu

BK2708094290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0845 GMT 27 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 27 August (LANKAPUVATH)—Security forces have consolidated their position in Mandaitivu, a small island northwest of the Jaffna Peninsula. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the forces also arrested a male nurse of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and recovered arms and ammunition.

The sources said that LTTE terrorists continued to attack detachments. Security forces reinforcements were inducted into the camps. In Jaffna, two services personnel were wounded in a terrorist attack on the Jaffna Fort. A report from the Eastern Province District of Batticaloa states that security forces killed a fisherman who attempted to escape.

Meanwhile, six subversives, including a former JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] leader, have been arrested in separate incidents by police and security forces. The former JVP leader was arrested in Colombo District by security forces, while police arrested three subversives in Nuwara Elia and two others in the Sabaragamuwa Province, the sources said.

LTTE Issues Statement

BK2808105490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1038 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Colombo, Aug 28 (AFP)—The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said Tuesday that Sri Lankan troops engaged in a military operation in the island's north have been trapped in several areas and suffered heavy casualties. In a statement from its London office received here, the LTTE said its fighters had surrounded troops airlifted to islands off the northern Jaffna peninsula, the scene of the major offensive against the rebels since last week.

Troops airlifted to the Mankumban Ganapathy Hindu temple on Mandativu Island on Friday "are unable to make any progress as LTTE cadres have laid landmines all round and encircled this group," the statement said. Military officials here said troops took control of the Mandativu island Saturday after inflicting heavy casulties on the rebels who are fighting for a separate state in the island's Tamil-dominated northeast.

"Several Sri Lankan soldiers have been killed when LTTE cadres launched attacks on this invading enemy force," the LTTE said, adding the air force "continued random bombing" on Mandativu backed by shelling from the navy. Officials have said that only five soldiers had died and more than 300 Tigers were killed so far during the military offensive, which aims to relieve the siege on the Jaffna Fort army camp.

The LTTE laid siege on most army garrisons in northern Sri Lanka after fighting began June 11. Troops had earlier seized the rebel-held islet of Kayts last Wednesday and the capture of Mandativu was vital for troops if they were to move to the peninsula by crossing the one kilometer (half mile) Pannai causeway that links the island with the mainland. But the LTTE said troops airlifted to Kayts "could not move at all as a result of heavy attacks by LTTE cadres." It said that troops dropped by helicopters on Arali, some 12 kilometers (7 miles) northwest of Jaffna town on Friday "are again stuck, unable to make any progress" due to attacks by the LTTE.

The guerrillas have alleged that the air force carried out "indiscriminate bombing attacks" on Arali causing heavy civilian casualties. "Many people are fleeing from the area by boats to Jaffna. Sri Lankan helicopter gunships are continuing to fire on the people fleeing in panic adding to the already high death toll of civilians," the two-page release said. The LTTE said that in fighting near the northern Karainagar naval base, more than 20 soldiers had died after being surrounded by rebels at the Thambatti village school.

Seven LTTE cadres died "while engaged in the heroic task of defending our land from the invading enemy force," it said. The LTTE said civilian casualties were high in the entire peninsula, which was "heavily shelled throughout the night by naval gun boats."

The Tigers also said "several Sri Lankan soldiers" died in heavy fighting around the beseiged Mullaitivu army camp in the north. Military officials said three soldiers had died and 31 others were injured when the rebels tried to storm the camp Sunday. The air force had used seven helicopters and two bomber aircraft to pound LTTE positions around the camp, the statement said, adding that fierce fighting was going on in the area.

It said government troops "fled from their camps" in Mullaitivu and Mannar due to "heavy attacks launched by LTTE cadres." The guerrilla group said its fighters on Saturday killed ten soldiers and destroyed an armoured vehicle after setting off landmines about 600 yards from the Kalawanchchikudy army camp in eastern Batticaloa. Nearly 3,700 people are reported to have died in renewed violence across the sprawling northeast, home to Sri Lanka's minority Tamils.

Government Cease-Fire Conditions

BK2708113290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Thousands of Tamils have fled by boat to South India from the island village (?off) Sri Lanka's northwest coast to escape fighting between Tamil separatist rebels and security forces. The strait is patrolled by the Sri Lankan Navy gunships, but refugee boats are usually able to cross without being spotted. More than 2,500 rebels, security men, and civilians have died in the fighting so far. The government has said a cease-fire and renewed talks are possible only if the rebels surrender their arms.

Air Force Moves Wounded Soldiers

BK2808082090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0744 GMT 28 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, August 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—A Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter in a daring mission landed in the fort of Jaffna on Monday and evacuated seven injured services personnel, military sources told LANKAPUVATH. This was the second daring evacuation operation carried out by the security forces in landing a helicopter in the fort of Jaffna, which is under siege by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists for the last two months. Two hundred food parcels were also supplied in this operation. The sources also said the security detachments of Elephant Pass, Kankesanturai and Mullaitivu came under heavy enemy fire. No casualties were reported.

The security forces have cleared the access route from Kurukkalmadam to Kalaru in the Eastern Province. One Muslim LTTE terrorist surrendered to the security forces. One soldier was injured by a landmine explosion during search operations. Meanwhile, STF [Special Task Force] personnel continued to provide security to the farmers in the Batticaloa and Amparai districts to carry out their work.

A report from Kandy states that an armed gang posing off as security personnel had visited a house in Kandy and demanded the door being opened. Since the inmates refused to do so the armed men had opened fire and damaged the windows and a TV set in the house. In Kurunegala two suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] detainees had escaped custody.

Minister on Indian Request To End Hostilities

BK2808100290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0813 GMT 28 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, August 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—With the armed forces reaching within one kilometre of the Jaffna Fort Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, state minister for defence, said that "it is up to terrorists to stop the war." "We did not start the war," said Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne this morning, the daily OBSERVER reports. He made this observation when asked for his comments on the reported request to Colombo by Indian Prime Minister Pratap Singh to "halt the escalating civil war and begin peace talks with Tamil rebels."

Minister Helps Repatriate 100 Youths From LTTE

BK2708095590 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0843 GMT 27 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 27 August (LANKAPUVATH)—Over 100 Muslim youth of the Northwestern Province District of Mannar have fled the area and are now being accommodated in Nattandiya, Minister of Trade and Shipping A.R. Munsoor told LANKAPUVATH.

He said that he had visited them and had made all necessary measures for their rehabilitation. He also said that he had made alternative arrangements for these youths to sit for their exams. Mr. Munsoor also told LANKAPUVATH that these youth had escaped forcible conscription by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in Mannar.